Public hearing eyed to determine IPI's 'financial suitability' PAGE 3
'Off-island travel for officials, employees will be restricted' PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 200

www.saipantribune.com THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 2020 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IPI will pay half of 2020's license fee if proposed CLA amendment is OK'd

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is proposing to split the $15 million casino license fee it owes this year and promises to pay half of that—$7.75 million—within 10 days, and the remaining $7.75 million on Feb. 12, 2021. That is, if the Commonwealth Lottery Commission approves its request to amend the casino license agreement once more.

See IPI on Page 4

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- IPI wants this year's $15.5M license fee to be split: $7.75M to be paid once CLS is amended and the remaining $7.75M in February 2021.
- IPI will resume payment of full $15.5M license fee by 2022.
- IPI proposes legalization of online gambling.
- Commonwealth Lottery Commission to hear IPI's proposals today
- Rep. Sablan appeals to hold meeting online so many members in the public can participate.

PSS back to Austerity Fridays

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

In consideration of how much instructional hours students would lose, the Public School System restored its austerity days on Fridays instead of Mondays, soon after the Board of Education voted to maintain the current schedule for school year 2020-2021

According to a letter that Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada sent public schools, since Austerity

See PSS on Page 4

Guam sees two more fatalities

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Guam saw two more fatalities yesterday, both of them known to be COVID-19 positive cases, raising the island's tally of COVID-19-related deaths to 57.

According to the Joint Information Center, Guam's 56th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Me-

See GUAM on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 7, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,699	115	2,814
Recovered	1,895	29	1,924
Active	772	115	887
Deaths	52	5	57
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			53,677

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	75	0	75
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

BUMPY ROAD

Much like many other parts of Beach Road, this part of this iconic highway is known for its potholes, uneven surface, and broken terrain. Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) has disclosed that there is now a move to repair a stretch of the highway from American Memorial Park to Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio. Funding for this project would come from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, he said. NEIL FAMA

Trump

Trump backpedals on COVID-19 relief talks

By MARIAM KHAN
ABC NEWS

In a pair of late-night tweets, President Donald Trump, changed course on negotiating coronavirus relief that he had earlier announced he was calling off until after the election.

"The House & Senate should IMMEDIATELY Approve 25 Billion Dollars for Airline Payroll Support, & 135 Billion Dol-

See TRUMP on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
PIC Saipan's restaurants—The Galley, Seaside Grill, and Sunday brunch at Magellan are now open.

PAGE 11

WORLD
Officials in Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday nullified the results of a weekend parliamentary election.

PAGE 13

ENVIRONMENT
Pedro J. Tudela, who is a forestry technician at the CNMI Division of Agriculture, likes planting.

PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Man in 'ice' case to plead guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Roman "Roach" Agulto, who is charged with two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, has opted to plead guilty as part of a plea deal.

Agulto, 45, was facing up to five years in prison for drug possession but the plea deal means that he will no longer face a jury trial in Superior Court.

Now, upon entering a guilty plea to one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance, Agulto will be sentenced to one-year imprisonment, all suspended, and will be placed on one year of probation.

According to the plea agreement, Agulto was found in possession of a controlled substance after a traffic stop on Nov. 24, 2018. The substance was later identified as crystal methamphetamine or "ice." Agulto was charged with two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

According to the police, two officers were on routine patrol in Susupe village during the night shift when they came across Agulto's vehicle and followed him.

When Agulto turned left on Pachinko Ave. from Tupak

See MAN on Page 4

VFW hosts 3 contests that promote patriotism

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The Veterans of Foreign Wars in the CNMI is kicking off its outreach to schools with three contests that target both students and teachers—all aimed at creating a better understanding of America's history and patriotism.

According to Joey McDoulett, commander of VFW Post 3457, the educational programs that are currently in the works are "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriot's Pen" for students and "Teachers Award" for teachers.

McDoulett

These programs are part of the National VFW Scholarship and Award Programs, which began in 1947.

The "Voice of Democracy" is a voice-essay contest while the Patriot's Pen is a written essay and the Teacher's Award recognizes teachers from across the nation.

The theme for "Voice of Democracy" asks the question: "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" Students in Grades 9 through 12 can join by completing the entry form and recording original 3- to 5-minute voice essay, either on a flash drive or audio CD.

For students in Grades 6 to 8, they can join the "Patriot's Pen" competition by writing an essay that answers the question, "What is patriotism to me?" Complete the entry form and write an essay in English, no more or no less than 300 to 400 typewritten words with no color or graphics.

For the "Smart/Maher Teacher Award," students from K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 can nominate teachers who teach citizenship education for a least half of the school day in a classroom environment and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively. The students are required to write 350 words or less to explain why you feel the nominee should be selected. Students must complete entry form and judging is completed first at the post level (Saipan), next at the district level (Marianas), and then against other entries from posts in Asia.

"These programs are very special as they promote not just history and patriotism, but they also touch on traditions, institutions, civic responsibility and flag etiquette," said McDoulett. "VFW goes to great lengths to help the community and encourage thoughtful discourse about our country."

The National Voice of Democracy winner receives a $30,000 scholarship and the Patriot's Pen winner receives a $5,000 award. The deadline for these programs is on Oct. 31, 2020.

For more information, call Mariano Fajardo at (670) 285-0613 or you can drop off entries at the VFW Post 3457 on Palm St. in Garapan after 4pm. Additional entry forms are available online at www.vfw.org under "Community" subtitled "Programs." Go here: http://www.vfw.org/Community/Programs/.

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• Early Check-in & Late Check-out Available upon Request
• Must Redeem $10 coupon at the casino cashier
• Must Redeem Free Game of Golf coupon at the Front Desk
• Must Redeem Free Cocktail coupon at the Bamboo Bar
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Public hearing eyed to determine IPI's 'financial suitability'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward Deleon Guerrero is floating the idea of holding a public hearing to determine and lay bare Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's "financial suitability" to continue the construction and operation of the casino/resort facility in Garapan, among other projects.

Speaking at the CCC board's monthly meeting last week, Deleon Guerrero said they will ask the company to prove that it has the money to continue with its projects in the CNMI.

"And if you do have the money, it becomes clear that you are financially suitable and you're entitled to hold on to the [casino] license," he said.

Citing previous actions that the CCC has taken against IPI, he said they required IPI to pay its vendors who have uncontested claims in 90 days, that they asked IPI to appoint a chief executive officer who is empowered with the ability to handle finances and construction and that the CEO should not be "kept in the dark." Deleon Guerrero said they also asked IPI to create a reserve payroll. "Again, that cannot be ignored," he said.

Deleon Guerrero

Deleon Guerrero said if the IPI board in Hong Kong does not know or is not aware that they're looking at setting a public hearing, this proceeding may potentially result in regulatory suspension of IPI's license.

"It's a big difference between suspension because of COVID-19 versus suspension because you violated the regulatory regulation," he pointed out.

The big difference, Deleon Guerrero said, is that the IPI board knows that the next phase behind a suspension is that, if they don't correct the deficiency, there is no other choice but revocation of the license.

"I don't know if you can manage to convince the Hong Kong group to understand that," the chairman told IPI officials who attended the meeting.

Deleon Guerrero said IPI is maybe running out of time if they don't honor those financial obligations.

IPI has failed to pay, among other things, $15.5 million in annual casino license fee that was due last Aug. 12 and $3 million in regulatory fee that was due last Oct. 1.

He emphasized that they are according IPI due process and that they are making sure, as part of their regulatory function, that IPI, the casino licensee, is financially suitable. "We have an obligation to make sure that we monitor and then you maintain financial stability," he said.

The chairman said they had asked the Office of the Attorney General to come up with a clear definition of what is "financial stability" and that the OAG came down to the use of the Nevada model of solvency plus one, which means that "you must be paying your debt as they become due," among other factors that define suitability.

'Off-island travel for officials, employees will be restricted'

Off-island travel for government officials and employees will be restricted this fiscal year, not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic but also because of the CNMI's smaller budget, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

Speaking at last Friday's radio news briefing, Atalig said off-island travel will be restricted this fiscal year and will be limited only to those travels that are deemed necessary and required by a federal agency or someone for that department to attend.

"But, as we all know with this COVID-19 situation, a lot of conferences and a lot of meetings are being done via Zoom," he said. "And I believe that will continue into the new fiscal year so we will minimize travel."

For himself, Atalig said he does not have any official travel plans. He has just returned from the U.S. mainland but he clarified that this was a personal trip as he had to take care of some personal business. Atalig came back last Thursday and went through the whole protocol of the COVID-19 testing. That day, Friday, he was onhis second day of quarantine.

"So I just want to also kind of give a shoutout to all the wonderful staff we have at the airport, and all the front-liners. I experienced it firsthand how well they are treating our incoming arrival passengers and operating very professionally, including at the quarantine sites. I just wanted to give that shoutout to our front-liners. Great job!" Atalig said.

Last August, the Office of the Public Auditor's audit of the government's travel policy found out that a uniform government travel policy by regulation has not been adopted to date and that travel policies and practices differ throughout the CNMI government, and that statutory restrictions on first and business class airfare have been violated.

Public Auditor Michael Pai recommended to the Legislature to review current travel laws and address any conflicts over official government travel.

Pai recommended to Finance to adopt a uniform travel policy by regulation and restrict the purchase of first class, business class, or any other premium class tickets, and provide training and guidance on per diem calculation.

The public auditor said the implementation of these recommendations will address the report's findings to comply with the law.

In September 2017, the Legislature passed Public Law 15-86 mandating a uniform government travel policy made applicable to all branches, departments, divisions, agencies, and autonomous agencies. Yet the OPA audit found out that Finance has failed to do this.

Atalig agreed with OPA's findings and stated that Finance is working diligently to adopt a uniform policy by Oct. 1, 2020.

Finance has also notified the Travel Section employees and department heads regarding the current restrictions on the purchase of first class travel.

Another OPA report—the CNMI Report on the Audit of Financial Statements for fiscal years 2015 and 2018—states that travel expenditures increased by about 27% for autonomous agencies and about 152% for the CNMI Executive Branch.

In fiscal year 2018, the report saids, the overall total travel expense for the CNMI reached $17.2 million, a 93% increase from the overall total in fiscal year 2015. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS FOR AN EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-COVID FUNDS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was allocated the third round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)- COVID funds. The intended use of the funds is to provide food assistance to eligible CNMI residents who have been financially impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is requesting for grant proposals from non-profit organizations to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to procure food, ***specifically to distribute food vouchers.*** Proposals will be due to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, Saipan, and in the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, no later than 4:30 pm, Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 670-234-6866 or by email at deputydirector@nmhcgov.net.

Minimum Application Requirements

1) 501(c)(3) designated organizations classified as a public charity with a minimum of two (2) year operating history as a non-profit
2) Articles of Incorporation
3) By-Laws
4) Non-Profit Annual Corporation Report
5) Business License and Tax ID Number
6) Current listing of Active Board of Directors (within the last 12 months)
7) Current listing of active employees
8) A statement of financial position (balance sheet) and a statement of financial activity for the prior year end, to be submitted with the application
9) Proof of Workmen's Compensation
10) Submission of a list of any other grant money received and balance to date

Application Information

In addition to the requirements above, a grant application is required. The Grant application is available on NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net. Please click the CDBG tab to access the application. **The application submission deadline is Wednesday, October 28, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m.**

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

TRUMP

From Page 1

lars for Paycheck Protection Program for Small Business. Both of these will be fully paid for with unused funds from the Cares Act. Have this money. I will sign now!" he posted shortly before 10 p.m.

"If I am sent a Stand Alone Bill for Stimulus Checks ($1,200), they will go out to our great people IMMEDIATELY. I am ready to sign right now. Are you listening Nancy?" he posted about 20 minutes later.

The late-night change came after a surprise announcement that he was calling off the talks with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"Nancy Pelosi is asking for $2.4 Trillion Dollars to bailout poorly run, high crime, Democrat States, money that is in no way related to COVID-19. We made a very generous offer of $1.6 Trillion Dollars and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith. I am rejecting their.....request, and looking to the future of our Country," Trump tweeted earlier on Tuesday.

"I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business. I have asked..... @senatemajldr Mitch McConnell not to delay, but to instead focus full time on approving my outstanding nominee to the United States Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett. Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment.....also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!" he said.

Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were negotiating in recent days and indicated several times that they were close to reaching a deal. They met at her office at the Capitol for 90 minutes last week, followed by a series of phone calls later in the week. Pelosi and Mnuchin traded papers on Monday but key differences still remained on liability insurance and funding for local and state governments, according to a source familiar with the talks.

Pelosi and Mnuchin spoke again by phone Tuesday afternoon just after the president called off negotiations. Mnuchin, according to Pelosi's office, confirmed that talks were off.

"The Secretary confirmed that the President has walked away from COVID talks. The Speaker expressed her disappointment in the President's decision to abandon the economic & health needs of the American people," Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill said in a tweet.

In a statement, Pelosi blasted the White House as being in "complete disarray."

"Today, once again, President Trump showed his true colors: putting himself first at the expense of the country, with the full complicity of the GOP Members of Congress. Walking away from coronavirus talks demonstrates that President Trump is unwilling to crush the virus, as is required by the Heroes Act. He shows his contempt for science, his disdain for our heroes – in health care, first responders, sanitation, transportation, food workers, teachers, teachers, teachers and others – and he refuses to put money in workers' pockets, unless his name is printed on the check," Pelosi said.

GUAM

From Page 1

morial Hospital at approximately 8:48am, yesterday. The patient was a 69-year-old female with underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. The 69-year-old female was admitted to GMH on Sept. 23 and tested positive upon admission.

Guam's 57th COVID-19-related fatality also happened at GMH at approximately 12:47pm. The patient was a 61-year-old female with underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. She was admitted to GMH last Sept. 4 and was also a known positive case.

"Our days have been too full of moments of silence. To those who loved her, [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I offer our heartfelt condolences and sympathies," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. She said that this virus is "unrelenting and will continue to test our resolve." She urged the Guam community to keep their commitment to doing what they can to make Guam a safer place.

Additionally, one Guam Department of Education employee tested positive for COVID-19 last Oct. 6. The GDOE confirmed that the recent positive case of their employee was identified at John F. Kennedy High School, and was a contact tracing effort. According to JIC, areas of the campus will be identified for cleaning and disinfecting as needed, and employees will not have access to these areas until cleaning has been completed.

IPI

From Page 1

The Commonwealth Lottery Commission will hear IPI's proposed 9th amendment to the casino license agreement today, Thursday, at 9am, in the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

As this developed, Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) asked CLC chair Mark O. Rabauliman and Attorney General Edward Manibusan yesterday to reconsider the lottery commission's decision to limit public attendance at the meeting to just 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sablan said the CLC has also opted not to provide any online access link for other members of the public to attend or participate in the meeting.

Given the magnitude of the subject of the hearing and the high level of public interest, and in the interest of transparency and open government, Sablan urged the CLC to reconsider its venue for the meeting and/or provide an online link so that more than 15 members of the public could participate.

"Online meetings have been conducted at the Governor's Office before, and I do not understand why this particular meeting would not also be available online," said Sablan.

She suggested that the Commonwealth Casino Commission's conference room as the alternative venue as it has enough space and also has the technology and IT capacity to provide online public access.

The casino license agreement provides a graduated increase in the annual casino license fee, starting at $15 million from Years 1 to 5 of the CLA, to $15.5 million in Years 6 to 10. This year is the sixth year of the CLA.

In IPI's request that was recently submitted to Rabauliman, IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne proposed that this year's license fee be paid in two parts, with the first $7.75 million to be paid within 10 days after the CLC approves the amendments to the CLA, and the remaining $7.75 million to be paid in February 2021.

Another $7.75 million will be paid on Aug. 12, 2021, for the seventh year of the CLA, and the remainder to be paid in the second half of 2021.

In January 2022, payment of the full $15.5 million casino license fee will resume, Browne said.

IPI's original request to CLC for the 9th amendment was that the $15.5 million casino license fee that it failed to pay last Aug. 12 be postponed and instead paid in the CLA's 15th year or in 2029.

Citing that IPI may be required to remain closed for the majority of this year due to the government mandated shutdown, Browne also told Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a letter dated Aug. 26 that they are also asked that the Commonwealth Casino Commission's $3 million regulatory fee be reduced to $1 million since the cessation of gaming requires less oversight.

In a resubmitted request for the 9th amendment, Browne said IPI will complete 350 rooms in three years for the initial gaming facility, Imperial Palace Resort.

Upon obtaining title to the Marpi lands (including the golf course that was originally part of Mariana Resort & Spa) and the permits/approval by relevant government regulatory agencies for commencement of the development of the Phase 1 (Marpi), a total of 2,000 hotel rooms (including the Imperial Palace Resort rooms) shall be built within five years.

Browne proposed to postpone payment of the community benefit fund in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Browne proposed that any CBF that are past due will be paid back for development of infrastructure such as road, sewer, public schools, and social benefit projects subject to the joint approval of the CNMI government and IPI, provided, however, that the request for the payment of overdue CBF will not be made within three years immediately after the approval of this proposal.

Upon the first full year of operation of the first hotel on the Marpi land, Browne said the annual CBF payments in the amount of $20 million will resume.

Browne said according to the CLA, the CCC only supervises gaming operations.

As for the bad debts that IPI has accrued from its patrons, Browne asked the CCC to be given the ability to sue patrons over debts that date back to 2015. Accordingly, Browne said, they agree that 15% of bad debt recovered through this action will be paid to the CNMI as a tax contribution.

Proposals

Browne said closure of the casino due to "force majeure" events for longer than 30 days should cause future license fees to be reduced proportionally. Force majeure refers to unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone or business from fulfilling a contract.

Browne proposed that the CCC regulatory fee be reduced from the $3 million to $1.5 million.

IPI also prosed for the legalization of online gambling to offset the impacts of the various unfavorable changes in the economy and the disastrous impact of COVID-19 on the global economy.

The unfavorable changes, Browne said, include the tightening of restrictions on Chinese tourists upon arrival and limiting the duration of their stay to 14 days.

He said with respect to the last four proposals, the government and IPI shall work closely together to form realistic plans and solutions on or before the end of January 2021.

PSS

From Page 1

Monday had already been observed this week, there will be classes on Friday and they will resume implementing Austerity Fridays on Oct. 16, and every Friday after that.

In a phone interview later with BOE chair Janice Tenorio and Ada, they pointed out there are a lot of holidays that fall on Mondays, which means that, in compliance with the government's directive that if a holiday falls on an Austerity Monday, it will be observed on the following day, Tuesday, that means PSS will only be left with three instructional days—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday— which also means that students will lose out on more instructional time.

Tenorio also stated that, after much consultation, they determined that Austerity Mondays wouldn't work out for PSS, considering the loss of instructional learning time, holidays, the typhoon season that usually disrupts classes, and starting the school year late. That won't happen as much by goes back to Austerity Fridays, Ada said.

Tenorio says the sudden change is not meant to confuse teachers but it was a "temporary fix" since a lot of families, teachers, and students were confused about what's going on with the schedule.

Ada said the school year will start this Oct. 20 and will end around June. Approximately 90% of PSS schools have gone through inspection and have passed. The remaining 10% needs to be re-inspected by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, PSS, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention.

"Schools have been very good following the COVID-19 things to do that must be in place before they open. They [schools] are also aware that, in the event of a random check and they are found not following the protocols, like the wearing of face mask, the school will be shut down," said Ada., adding that schools are being treated like establishments where they should have arrows pointing where to go, hand sanitizers, temperature checks, masks, etc.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier ordered the implementation of Austerity Mondays this fiscal year as a cost-cutting measure and to align the CNMI government's operation with that of the federal government in Washington, D.C.

World Teacher Day

Ada and Tenorio also expressed their appreciation for teachers on World Teachers Day last Oct. 5.

Tenorio extended her appreciation not just for private/public teachers, but for parents who are homeschooling their kids. "With this pandemic and what we're going through in the CNMI, you can say everyone is a teacher right now," said Tenorio.

"I realized that it's hard, but please don't give up on the students because the community needs them. Embrace this change," said Ada. "It's not easy, but let's just try to…enjoy the new way of teaching and learning."

MAN

From Page 2

Street, the officers followed and they found Agulto's vehicle stopped in the middle of the southbound lane. Police momentarily stopped behind Agulto's vehicle and Agulto reversed approximately 20 feet on the highway toward the officers' vehicle and nearly hitting it. Agulto then drove a few feet forward and made a west-facing right turn into a residence on Pachinko Ave. The police vehicle made a U-turn and followed Agulto. Police said Agulto rolled down his car window and raised both his hands and then sped away. When Agulto revved his engine, police officers activated their police emergency light and went after the defendant.

Later the officers found Agulto's vehicle parked along Bakke St. and found Agulto hiding in the bushes.

After calling Agulto out and placing him in handcuffs, police searched the area and found one headlamp and one case that had small clear Ziploc bags containing crystalline substance, and one glass tube pipe with crystalline substance residue in it. When asked about it, Agulto said it was not his.

Police also found other drug paraphernalia in Agulto's vehicle, including 110 clear Ziploc bags containing a crystal-like substance, and a branch of what was believed to have been marijuana.

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Study: More than 25% of Guam kids obese or overweight

More than 27% of children in Guam between the ages of 2 and 8 were found to be obese or overweight, according to a study from the University of Guam's Children's Healthy Living Program. The findings were published on Aug. 20 in the journal *Nutrients*.

Guam's statistic sits just above the national average, based on reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The big—and concerning—take home message is the unhealthy habits and behavioral patterns we found likely contributing to this high rate: too much screen time, the processed and sugary foods and beverages, and, most surprisingly, poor sleeping habits," said co-author and program lead Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, a registered dietitian who holds a doctorate in human nutrition. "It's a dangerous territory to be in since childhood weight issues can lead to obesity in adulthood, which only increases their risk for health problems like cardiovascular disease and cancer among others."

The study surveyed 860 children and their caregivers and found that 99% of children did not consume the recommended daily fruit and vegetable intake (1 to 1.5 cups per day), while 40% did not meet the recommended daily hours of sleep (between eight and 11 hours). Obese or overweight children are statistically more likely to suffer from sleep disturbances.

University of Guam extension associate Clarissa Barcinas brings "Food Friends," one of the many activities of the Children's Healthy Living Program, to local elementary school students to promote healthy eating.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Nearly 85% of children exceeded the two-hour recommended screen time. The average was five hours per day, which is comparable to figures in the states. Among the group, 83% consumed sugary and sweet beverages. The recommended consumption is zero.

Those who considered themselves part of the Westernized lifestyle (80%)—which contains processed, high fat, and sugary foods—were twice as likely to be overweight or obese. More than half of the children (58%) also came from families living below the poverty line, and more than 80% were receiving some form of food assistance.

The data helps fill a long-standing gap in health data collection in the United States, which has historically omitted Pacific Islanders from many national surveys and studies often used to inform prevention strategies and programs designed to reduce obesity rates.

In Guam, the program—officially known as the Children's Healthy Living Program for Remote Underserved Minority Populations in the Pacific Region—is a partnership among the University of Guam, the government, and schools that tracks children's weight rates on Guam and throughout the region and implements interventions to help improve them.

Mark Acosta, Children's Healthy Living Program program manager, talks to child participants at the Pagachao Community Center.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Most recently, researchers collected data in March 2020 to analyze the effectiveness of those interventions. Those results are expected in 2021.

"We need to better understand these types of disparities so we can help our communities and their children maximize their health and well-being," Leon Guerrero said.

Besides Leon Guerrero, researchers also included L. Robert Barber, Tanisha F. Aflague, Yvette C. Paulino, Margaret P. Hattori-Uchima, and Mark Acosta from the University of Guam, Lynne R. Wilkens from the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, and Rachel Novotny from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The study was supported with grants from U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

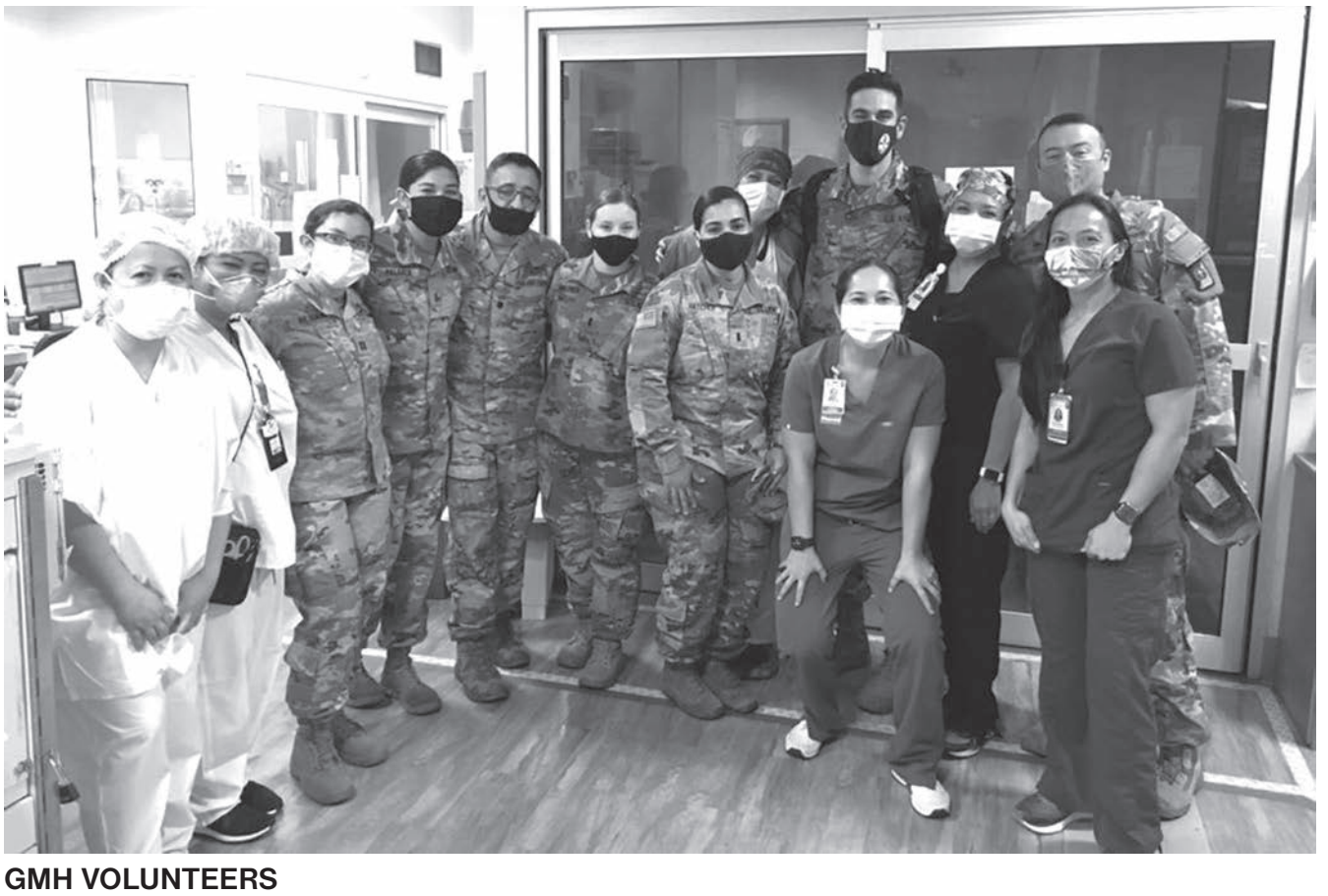
The complete research article can be read at https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/12/9/2527. ***(PR)***

An "Actical" bracelet is placed on the wrist of a Children's Healthy Living Program participant to measure physical activity.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Children's Healthy Living Program research staff member Remylynn Yamanaka helps children line up to be measured at the Agat Community Center.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



GMH VOLUNTEERS

The Guam National Guard extends appreciation to its active duty partners from PACAF (Joint Base Elmendorf - Richardson, AK), 47th CSH (I Corp Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA), and 18th MEDCOM, (Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, HI), for their service to the Island of Guam in September. Each of these brave medical warriors from both the Army and Air Force volunteered help Guam Memorial Hospital's COVID-19 Care Unit for 30 days, when help was most needed. In addition to receiving a Guam Commendation Medal and coin of excellence from The Adjutant General, Guam Maj. Gen. Esther Aguigui, the volunteers also received coins of excellence from Rear Adm. John Menoni of Joint Region Marianas.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMI Soroptimist meeting today

The Soroptimist Chapter of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today, Oct. 8, at 12pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Buffet. Cost of the luncheon is $17. Join us to further our work for the "Best for Women" in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

5.3-magnitude quake on Maug Island

At 7:30am on Oct. 6, 2020, a report of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred at 19.885°N 145.339°E in the Maug Island region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

Free webinars in Oct. on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars

Every Thursday in October. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Oct 8 – All Small Mentor-Protégé Program** – Small businesses can team up with large businesses and go after contracts normally set-aside for small businesses only. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply for this SBA program.

■ **Oct. 15 – Marketing to the Federal Government** – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

■ **Oct. 22 – FAR Clauses Explained** – Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government solicitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **Oct. 29 – Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment** – Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

Register on our website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

OFWs in US, Caribbean get $200 pandemic aid from PH

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Each of the 2,225 overseas Filipino workers in the United States and the Caribbean Islands whose applications were approved received $200 in financial aid, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Washington, D.C. announced.

The assistance was given under the DOLE AKAP program to OFWs in the United States and the Caribbean Islands whose employment and livelihood have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

POLO-WDC acknowledged, however, that the wide coverage of its jurisdiction, travel restrictions, and bank limitations/policies on wire transfers delayed the remittance and disbursement of the funds.

"We have received several complaints about the delays in the release of the funds and we are grateful for the comments and suggestions that were sent our way. Rest assured, we shall continue to implement the program, taking note of all our accounting and auditing procedures as well as the host countries'", said Labor Attaché Angela Trinidad.

POLO-WDC turned to the Philippine honorary consuls and Filipino community leaders in the Caribbean Islands to facilitate the distribution of the financial assistance packages to the beneficiaries in compliance with the social distancing rules in their respective host countries.

"From the latter part of May to the latter part of June, POLO-WDC has explored all cost-effective means possible to fast track the distribution of funds to our workers. By the first week of June, POLO-WDC was already prohibited from performing bank transfers compelling it to seek authority from our Manila office to distribute funds through our Filipino community and association leaders," Labor Attaché Trinidad explained.

For their unconditional and efficient assistance in distributing the funds, Trinidad recognized and expressed appreciation to honorary consuls Glicerio "Eli" DM Arago of the CNMI and Eric Whipps of Palau, and Filipino community leaders Narita Longno (Bermuda), Florenda Russel-Smith and Jennifer Panganiban (British Virgin Islands), Arturo Ursua (Cayman), Florita Viterbo and Chris Burgos (Bahamas), Alan Tulalian (Trinidad and Tobago), Alfonso Palatino (Turks and Caicos Islands) and Laarni Raebel (Jamaica). ***(Inquirer.net)***

Hydraulic modelling assessment for the Majuro Water and Sewer Co. completed

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation has developed a hydraulic model with GIS data base and completed an assessment report analyzing and making recommendations for system improvements to the Majuro Water and Sewer Company's water supply and distribution system on Majuro in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Funding support for this work was provided by Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and announced by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt at the Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue in August 2019.

"This collaboration between Interior's Bureau of Reclamation and the Office of Insular Affairs, with the Majuro Sewer and Water Company, serves to improve water delivery for thousands on Majuro, the main population center and capital of the Marshall Islands," said Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. "Interior has delivered on a promise made to the freely associated states last year by Secretary Bernhardt at the Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue in Tuvalu, and testifies to the special relationship we have with the people of the Marshall Islands through the Compact of Free Association."

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman said the bureau is known around the world for its high-quality technical expertise. "I am pleased that through this collaboration with the Office of Insular Affairs, we are able to provide our services to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This hydraulic model, GIS database, and report are important tools to that will assist Majuro Water and Sewer Company with determining current conditions and identifying opportunities to improve water management and delivery."

Roxanne Cabral, the U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands, said that clean and accessible water is key for healthy living and the U.S. Embassy "is proud to be a close partner of the MWSC on this and other initiatives."

A team consisting of three civil engineers and a physical scientist from Interior's Bureau of Reclamation have been working closely with the Majuro Water and Sewer Company to conduct an engineering assessment of the existing system and develop a hydraulic computer model and GIS database to serve as a basis for improving water systems on Majuro Atoll. The final report includes:

1. an inventory of existing water network systems (section 2);

2. a hydraulic model to facilitate the design and analysis of present and future network systems (section 3);

3. an evaluation of the adequacy of the existing distribution systems and identified deficiencies (section 4);

4. conceptual details of potential improvements to satisfy the system's present and future needs (section 5); and

5. recommendations for system improvements and next steps (section 6).

The final report will serve as a basis for decision making to improve the water systems on Majuro Atoll. It has been submitted to the Republic of the Marshall Islands government and the Majuro Sewer and Water Company. It is also available to the public through the OIA website at: https://www.doi.gov/oia/reports.

Announced by Interior's Bernhardt at the 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue last August, this water project for Majuro in the Republic of the Marshall Islands was part of an initiative to support water security projects in the freely associated states. Work in the Federated States of Micronesia has been postponed and is still pending due to travel restrictions imposed under the coronavirus pandemic. As recently announced, bureau engineers have already completed a preliminary water assessment with the Palau Public Utilities Corp., which may be viewed on the OIA website at https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/oia-palauwatertreatmentplants-preliminary-assessment-july2020.pdf.

The Office of Insular Affairs provided $400,000 in support of this water security initiative for the freely associated states and with Reclamation, is exploring ways to expand this partnership to include all the insular areas.

For more information on the Office of Insular Affairs, visit https://www.doi.gov/oia. For more information about the Bureau of Reclamation's work, visit https://www.usbr.gov/. ***(PR)***

CCDF Program now accepting applications for new families

The CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs announced Tuesday that interested families may begin submitting applications on Oct. 19, for the Child Care and Development Fund Program to be placed on its wait list.

The CCDF Program requires that applicants meet income guidelines for the household as well as approved activities, which include, working, in a job-related training, or participating in education.

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, the following priorities for this application will be implemented: front-liners such as law enforcement, public safety officers, and emergency medical services assigned to COVID-19 activities with direct contact with individuals and essential worker, such as retail cashiers, gas attendants, sanitation workers, bank tellers, child care teachers, and caregivers.

For information regarding the CCDF Program Income Guidelines, see the Child Care Licensing Program website at cnmicclp.gov.mp or you may contact the following eligibility specialists to assist with application questions and procedures: Joella Rosario at 664-2575 or Genevieve Guerrero at 664-2576. Applicants may also send their inquiries via email to ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com or dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com respectively. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Child Care & Development Fund
Building# 1347, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 664-2575 / 2576 / 2589 • Fax: (670) 664-2547

KRIZEL TUAZON

File photo shows the Child Care and Development Fund Program office on Capital Hill.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-024

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply and Delivery of a Tire Shredder for the Department of Public Works, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of Fifety Dollars **($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 14, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 21, 2020** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division**, Lower Base, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2726. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

NMTI

NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting

October 9, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order (Establishment of a quorum)
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Minutes:
  A. Regular Board Meeting, March 12, 2020
  B. Special Board Meeting, April 29, 2020
  C. Special Board Meeting, July 15, 2020
  D. Special Board Meeting, September 24, 2020
IV. Public Comments
V. Reports/Info
  A. Chairman
  B. CEO
    1. Meeting with PSS Commissioner Re. Da'ok Academy
    2. S.B. 21-32
    3. Status of all NMTI Employees
      a. Annual Leave of employees
      b. Letter to each employee
VI. Executive Session
VII. Old Business
  A. To Amend Board of Trustees' Resolution 002.01.
VIII. New Business
  A. NMTI Re-Opening Plan in Phases
  B. Alternative Funding Source(s)
  C. Review Chairman's Letter to Governor
IX. Next Board Regular Meeting: Date & Time
X. Adjournment

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 200

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How to heal a divided country

If this presidential election feels particularly divisive, without a consensus about where the country should be headed on big issues, it may just be because we are actually engaged in a much larger struggle about who we are as a people and who we want to be as a country. We may actually be in a fight over national culture, broadly defined, and those fights are never easy.

A country's culture is hard to define, but critically important. It involves the stories we tell ourselves about our past and future and who we celebrate as heroes (or whether we stop allowing heroes to emerge, as we too often do today). It involves our aspirations. And it involves the work and behavior all of us engage in as we go about our daily lives. Culture comes out in how we engage in commerce, how we practice and profess faith and, of course, how we interact with other people, whether they live next door or on the other side of the planet.

It mattered, for example—as the late historian Stephen Ambrose once noted—that in World War II civilians who saw a band of American soldiers come over the hill could rest easy that those soldiers would likely offer comfort and even food, when the same could not be said for soldiers from many other countries.

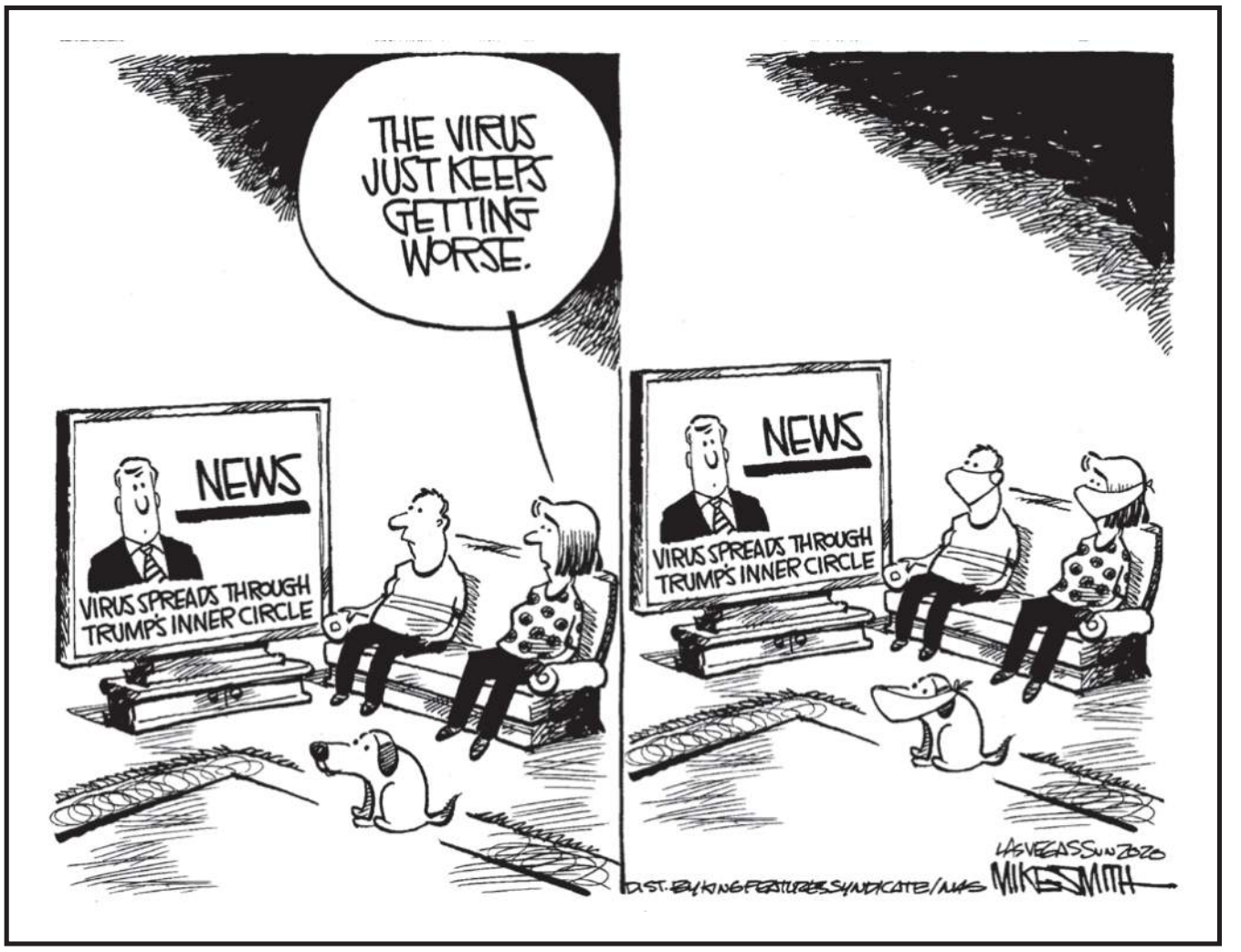
A country's culture emerges organically based on shared experiences as well as hopes and dreams and even fears, but it is also shaped by significant events and leaders willing to look past parochial politics to offer a broader vision for the future. The leaders who are worth following call on us to serve a purpose larger than ourselves. They inspire us to translate our prosperity and our talents into achievements that will endure and grow over time.

What's more, if our leaders are going to save us from being at the mercy of events, they will also have to find a way to unify the country behind universal ideals. If such unity seems impossibly elusive in the current environment, we'd argue the key ingredient is actually ingrained in core American values that have animated this country since its founding, even if the country itself hasn't always lived up to those values.

Those values start with recognizing the equality of all people and the dignity and worth of each person regardless of background, faith, race or any other factor. If that sounds straightforward, applying our values gets messy as we walk through policy disagreements. Often we lose sight of the broader view, and we can end up looking past what might have brought us together. What should be a unifying idea is that each person has moral agency, each person has the capacity to decide for himself or herself how to live and the ability to act. And therefore public policy should be predicated on empowering Americans and fostering a culture where more people have the ability to address the problems they face.

In practice, however, we too often skip past moral agency and assume when we design programs to combat poverty and other issues that many Americans are incapable of making decisions to govern their own lives, or we institute initiatives that actively deprive Americans of opportuni-

See COUNTRY on Next Page



Why abuse and neglect of immigrants proliferate in ICE detention

By JENNIFER R. NÁJERA
Los Angeles Times

Jennifer R. Najera, an associate professor and department chair of ethnic studies at UC Riverside, is the author of The Borderlands of Race: Mexican Segregation in a South Texas Town.

In immigrant rights circles, it is common to hear the phrase "abolish ICE," a sentiment that has grown stronger with every new abuse.

A whistleblower recently filed a complaint about a gynecologist in Georgia performing hysterectomies on migrant women in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement without fully informed consent. Women from the same immigration detention center in Georgia have also reported being subjected to unnecessary gynecological procedures.

These are alarming allegations, but in some ways not entirely unexpected with an agency where negligence and cruelty are a daily occurrence. We should understand that ICE's mission, rooted in anti-terrorist efforts, is bound to produce inhumane treatment of migrants unless it dramatically changes course.

I've been studying Mexican immigration for the last two decades, and over this time I've seen migrants increasingly treated as criminals subject to humiliation and brutality.

For most of the 20th century, it was the Immigration and Naturalization Service that policed the border, periodically showing force in workplace and community raids that led to deportation. At other moments in this history, INS agents worked with employers to selectively enforce border policy, ensuring that there were sufficient Mexican laborers to keep the agricultural industry afloat.

The ebb and flow of border enforcement and deportation began to change in the late 1990s with initiatives to increase the militarization of the border. After the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. immigration policy shifted dramatically. In 2003, when the INS was replaced by the Department of Homeland Security and its agencies—ICE, Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—immigration issues were folded into a new mission of national security: the removal of "criminal aliens."

Migrants who had been coming from Mexico for generations to work were now being treated as suspected criminals. We saw this most acutely in late 2005 when the House of Representatives passed HR 4437, which, if passed by the Senate, would have made it a felony to reside in this country without papers. The bill led to some of the biggest immigration marches in the country, with protesters carrying signs that read, "We Are Workers, Not Criminals" and "Immigrants Are America's Workers."

Migrant detention, which barely existed 50 years ago, grew rapidly during the early 2000s and became a key part of the Obama administration's immigration deterrence policy. That administration imprisoned migrant women and children and refugees in ever greater numbers while they waited for their cases to be reviewed by immigration courts. Some migrants were held for years behind bars. All of it was done in the name of protecting the nation from dangerous criminals.

The irony, of course, is that the Obama administration also made provisions for "Dreamers" by putting in place the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2012. The fact that those children and many high-achieving undocumented young people were and are being raised by families and communities filled with people labeled "criminal" migrants is not lost on many DACA recipients.

Things have gotten worse after the Trump administration took over the reins of the Department of Homeland Security. Trump campaigned on a premise of protecting our borders and characterizing Mexican migrants as drug dealers, rapists and criminals. Since his election, he has used ICE and Customs and Border Protection to punish migrants, the undocumented and those seeking refugee status.

The conditions of detention continue to worsen. In 2017, a nonprofit group filed a complaint against the Department of Homeland Security for sexual assault, abuse and harassment in ICE detention facilities. The Adelanto detention facility in San Bernardino County was listed among the top five facilities in the country with the most sexual assault complaints.

In 2018, people all over the country watched in horror as ICE agents forcibly removed migrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. Audio recordings of children crying for their parents and images of kids in cages caused a moral dilemma partially resolved by courts that ordered reunification.

See ICE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

COUNTRY

From Page 8

ties to act in the face of adversity. A few basic examples include neighborhoods walled off from the cities in which they sit by highways without off-ramps, or schools that lack resources to enable students from all backgrounds to succeed. We enact tax policies that hobble the efforts of Americans to rise into the middle class or amass assets that can keep them there. And we push forward with trade policies that too often encourage companies to push jobs offshore while some also fuel fears that newly arriving Americans will displace those already struggling to get by.

It is possible to shape a culture, but we need to actively work against being at the mercy of the next crisis.

■■■

Truth be told, this nation has had more than its share of culturally shaping events in what's been a very crowded two decades.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 had profound cultural effects. Even with the first Gulf War successfully completed, at the time of the attacks this country still operated under its post-Vietnam reluctance to engage in military contests abroad. That reluctance collapsed along with the World Trade Center towers. As a result, a generation of Americans volunteered for military service even as (and often because) they understood that doing so would send them to war.

Similarly, the financial panic of 2008 fed another cultural change. Before the housing crisis, homeownership had been seen as a path to the middle class for generations. To buy a home was to attain a portion of the American Dream. Today, homeownership rates still haven't returned to pre-financial crisis levels.

Now we're deeply engaged in a debate about racial equity at the same time that we are facing a pandemic and a recession that undercut the financial stability of tens of millions of Americans. We still can only guess at the full contours of this recession, but it should be clear that it will have long-term effects because it is already reshaping the landscape of American life.

A large number of Americans are pulling up stakes and moving to new communities. Mostly, that movement is into the suburbs or exurbs or even to rural communities and out of urban centers. That's the case in New York, where Manhattan now has a 5% apartment vacancy rate for the first time in its history, according to real estate firm Douglas Elliman and appraiser Miller Samuel. And it's true in Vermont, where towns that had long seen declining populations are seeing a flood of new residents and new school-age children.

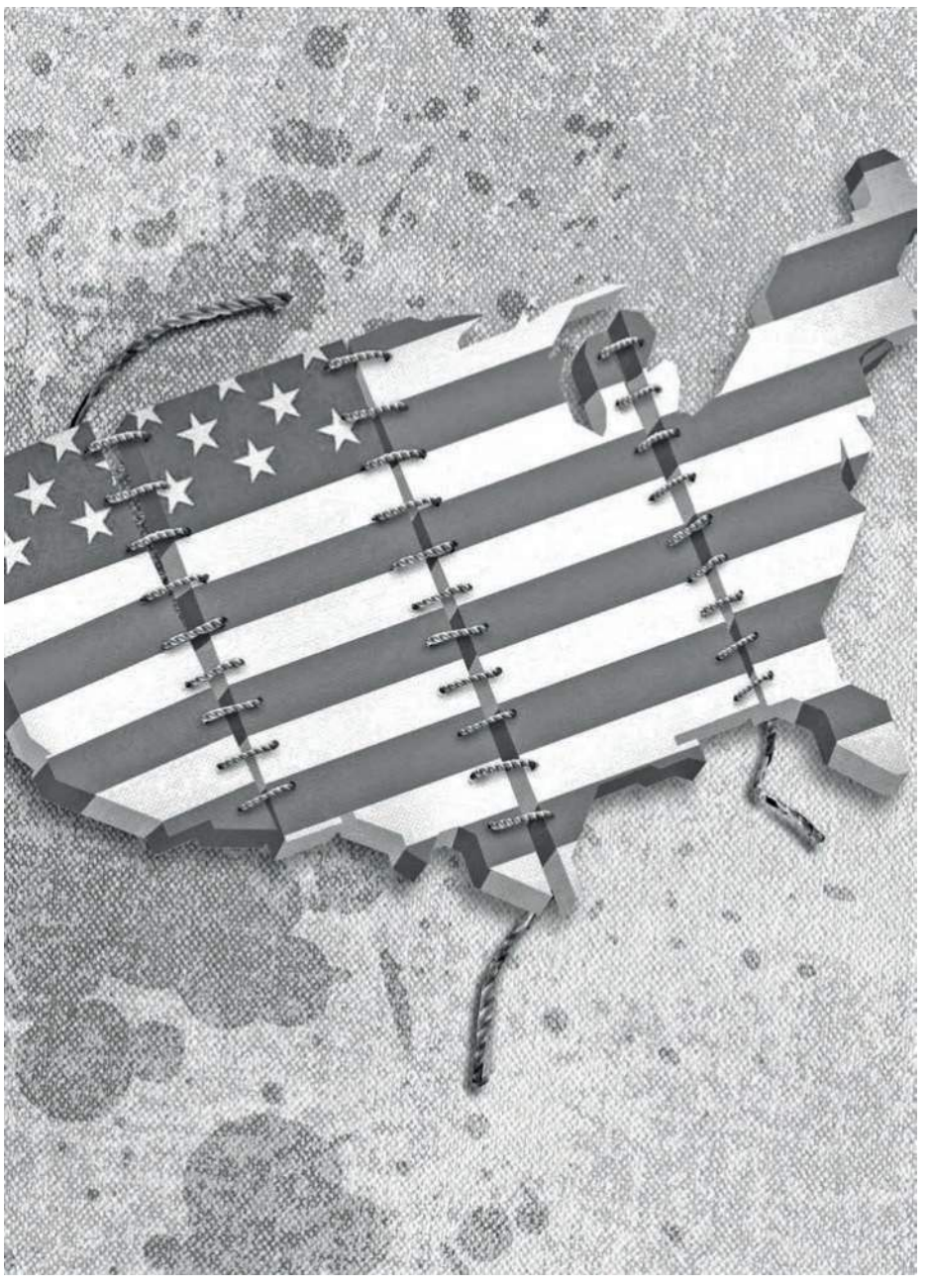
It's also the case in Texas. We've long seen an expansion of suburban communities such as Plano, Frisco and Allen. Austin has grown so much its suburbs seem likely to someday merge with the suburbs of San Antonio. And Houston may periodically battle floodwaters, but we haven't yet seen the crest of its suburban tide expanding outward. And judging by real estate trends, the influx we get from California and elsewhere will continue to fill the outer rings of our cities.

America is on the move, and no one yet knows what policy implications that will have. But it seems clear that if Americans settling now in suburban and rural communities stay there, we'll see changes on policies ranging from how communities are policed to how schools are run to how transportation issues are worked out. Rather than denser growth with smaller footprints, we can expect a more spread-out populace to want more highways. Parents who settle in a community because of the quality of its schools can be expected to engage in protracted fights about education.

■■■

So how can we shape events and improve our society? In the What's at Stake series, we've offered ideas on economic growth, foreign policy and presidential leadership. We believe that progress can be made in each of these areas. But first, we need to step back from the brink of political destruction and ask what should be demanded from our public leaders and what should be demanded of the rest of us ordinary Americans.

And here, John F. Kennedy is instructive. In his inaugural address he called on Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." In that statement was a call for a level of cultural agreement and sacrifice that can sustain a free society on ideals that go beyond ourselves. In a world of a limited government and limited resources, it's incumbent on all of us to ask what work can be done by ordinary Americans to make our society thrive.



Some of that work will always involve mobilizing others against injustice. But some of it will also always involve what political commentator Peggy Noonan once called "patriotic grace" in a book of that title. We need to give our fellow Americans a little grace as they work through their lives. Be a little less judgmental of others and also a little more understanding of what it takes to enact significant change.

We'd add to that thought a call for a more objective reading of our history and an understanding of what this country has accomplished, even as it has a long way to go and a lot of improvement ahead.

It's true that the legacy of slavery and the impact of racism are an uncleansed stain on our country's history that still threatens out future. It's also true that this country produced the first anti-slavery organization (the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery) and an abolition movement that eventually crushed that evil institution. We had legal segregation, and we had courageous leaders who finally found a way to remove the pillars that propped up that form of oppression, even as much work remains to be done.

It's true the United States has a lot of work to do to ensure that opportunities are more broadly available. But it's also true that this country has figured out a way to unleash human creativity not seen elsewhere that serves as a massive magnet that has pulled people here for as long as we've been a country (and before). We're a nation of immigrants in part because we're a nation of opportunity. The story of America is very much the story of human flourishing in the arts as well as commerce. That flourishing stems from an ingrained sense of liberty that allows creativity to run free and has made the U.S. leader in new technology, patents and innovations that have lifted the spirit alongside the standard of living.

And it's true that we're a peaceful country that prefers comity over war and has, nevertheless, built the most powerful military the world has ever seen. That's not a random occurrence. The same creativity that fuels innovations fuels the military arts as well, but there is another force behind it. We have an all-volunteer, professional military that is filled with individuals invested in a larger purpose of defending free, democratic societies rather than seeking conquest. There is power in that moral grounding.

Finally, we're also a free people who lean heavily on rules and the law. The American system of justice needs reform, but the American adherence to the rule of law is still unusual in many parts of the world. American courts and an adversarial legal system drive the country relentlessly toward constitutional requirements and laws legitimately enacted and applied. This system undergirds liberty because it constrains our political system as well as individuals. So even while the sitting president may stir controversy over a peaceful transfer of power, no one can seriously doubt that American institutions from the federal marshals to the Marines who guard the president would meet, above all else, their constitutional responsibilities.

So in developing the culture we need to help sustain our efforts to meet the very real challenges ahead, we encourage all Americans to set cynicism aside and look to core values we can unite behind. With that in mind, it should be easier to offer grace to others and see through the politics of the moment. We're in a moment when many wish to tear down institutions. What we actually need is for Americans to step forward to do the work to build up the institutions we need to address national problems. That means not tearing apart institutions—such as the Supreme Court—because the quirks of our political system are moving against your party. And what we also need is for Americans to recognize when our existing institutions are acting reasonably. Congress might not be popular, but when it passes a reasonable solution to a pressing problem that may not be your party's preferred solution, it's incumbent upon voters to accept that this is how a democratic society advances.

From our houses of worship to the branches of government and much more, we need functional institutions. We'll only get them if we hold them accountable and help them function. If they need to be rebuilt, Americans should offer ideas and turn their shoulders to the work necessary to forge the consensus a democratic society requires. If we need clear decisions, we should be prepared to work within our institutions to advance the national interests.

If that sounds like hard work, it nonetheless is within our grasp. Or to quote a president who, in noting the problems of a stumbling economy and a divided country, said in his first inaugural address, that what's required is "our best effort, our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds; to believe that together, with God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us."

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ICE

From Page 8

But many of these families, though reunited with their children, remain in detention. The cruelty of their condition was revealed in heartbreaking drawings by migrant children released by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

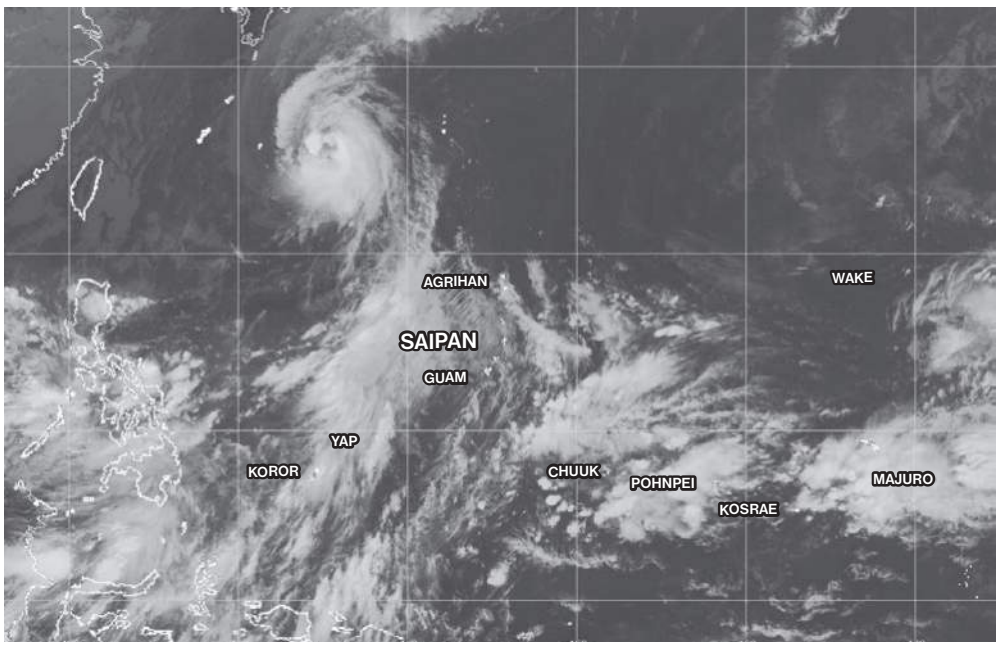
The recent whistleblower complaint has prompted a call for an immediate investigation by more than 170 members of Congress. It demonstrates yet again the shortcomings and failures of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. We need an agency that understands this country's complex immigration history and the needs of our communities. Central to that mission should be treating migrants with basic human rights.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 76°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:47 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East to southeast winds, showers and thunderstorms prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:02 AM	10:32 PM
Friday	-	11:55 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	12:48 PM	-
Sunday	2:19 AM	1:41 PM	-
Monday	1:16 AM	2:32 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	63° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
London	Showers	63° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	100° / 72°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 54°
Miami	Showers	85° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 67°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Paris	Showers	57° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Rome	Cloudy	68° / 48°
Salem	Showers	72° / 52°
San Francisco	Sunny	75° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 66°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.10
12:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.59
6:04 PM	LOW TIDE	1.20
10:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.51

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTIBUTED PHOTOS
Seaside Grill Sunset is open Thursday to Saturday, 5pm to 9pm.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio may not be ready to take room reservations yet, but three restaurants—The Galley, Seaside Grill, and Sunday brunch at The Magellan are now open and locals in the know are not dilly-dallying in enjoying at least one, two, or all the restaurants every week to satisfy their appetite.

Lunch at The Galley is an example of everything that is most wonderful about local food—tasty, affordable, and it comes in big portions, perfect for working people. Open from Monday to Friday, 11am-2pm, The Galley is the new lunch Mecca for people on the go.

"If you work around San Antonio, Susupe, or Garapan, then getting lunch at The Galley is the perfect choice. Whether you come by to dine-in or to pick it up, The Galley's "gourmet-style" lunch menu prepared by longtime Saipan chef William Retardo will definitely appeal to your taste buds," said Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung.

"For light lunch eaters, we have soups, appetizers, salad, pizza, and sandwiches. For noodle and pasta lovers we have Japanese and Korean ramen, spaghetti Bolognese, and carbonara. Our main entrees include beef bulgogi, Japanese home-style curry, crispy fried chicken, and our signature burger called the South Best Burger Set. The South Best Burger is highly recommended—it's big, the meat is tender and juicy, and the set comes with French fries and iced tea. It is originally $14 but applying the local rate, you can get your burger fix for only $11," Hung added.

Plans to make picking up food convenient for customers is underway. One idea is to allot an area in the lobby to pick-up food, similar to a drive-thru.

CONTIBUTED PHOTOS
Pacific Islands Club Saipan's The Galley is open from Monday to Friday, 11am-2 pm.

Quality and quantity are the rules when it comes to happy hour at the Seaside Grill Sunset. Loved by locals who get a table to catch up with family and friends while viewing the perfect sunset, Seaside Grill offers a variety of drinks and food to accompany you to see the day end.

"Seaside Grill Sunset is somewhere you want go after a long day because people treat this as their relax and unwind place. Since we opened in August, people have been coming tirelessly from Thursday to Saturday to enjoy happy hour, 5pm-7 pm," Hung said.

"…And because of its popularity, we have extended happy hour starting from 5pm to 9pm. If they want to stay and have dinner they can and if they want to transfer inside the restaurant, that is welcome too," Hund added.

A wide array of international and local dishes is one of the reasons to have Sunday Brunch at The Magellan. Aside from treating your taste buds to different flavors, the restaurant is family friendly because it is spacious and brunch is reasonably priced.

"The Magellan Restaurant is the biggest outlet at PIC as we can accommodate 400 people with no problem. But with COVID-19 regulations, we cut capacity into half… our buffet system also changed to maintain safety and health protocols. Food will be served by servers behind the food stations or counters to the guests and in between them is a transparent wall to maintain social distancing… our brunch includes unlimited champagne," said Hung.

CONTIBUTED PHOTOS
Making a reservation is encouraged at The Magellan.

"Since we opened last month, Sunday Brunch is always packed that is why we recommend making reservations… With local discount, the Sunday Family Brunch is only $30 for adults and $15 for child," Hung added.

The Galley is open during lunch, 11am-2pm from Monday to Friday, while the Seaside Grill is open for happy hour, 5pm-9pm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. For more information call (670) 234-7976, 8am-5pm, from Monday to Wednesday and 8am-9pm from Thursday to Saturday.

Stocks drop after Trump calls off talks on economic stimulus

Stocks dropped on Wall Street Tuesday after President Donald Trump ordered a stop to negotiations with Democrats on a coronavirus economic stimulus bill until after the election.

The S&P 500 index slid 1.4% after having been up 0.7% prior to the president's announcement, which he made on Twitter about an hour before the close of trading. The late-afternoon pullback erased most of the benchmark index's gains from a market rally a day earlier.

In a series of tweets, Trump said: "I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small business." He also accused Speaker Nancy Pelosi of not negotiating in good faith.

The comments from the president came just hours after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell urged Congress to come through with more aid, saying that too little support "would lead to a weak recovery, creating unnecessary hardship for households and businesses."

Optimism that Democrats and Republicans would reach a deal on more stimulus ahead of the Nov. 3 elections had helped lift the stock market recently. Now, investors face the prospect that more aid may not come until next year, after the new Congress is seated, said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird.

"This isn't just pushing it off until after the election, this realistically is pushing it off until spring," Delwiche said. "I don't think this is just a one-day financial markets reaction. This really goes to the health of the recovery." ***(AP)***

Trump administration to sharply limit skilled-worker visas

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration announced plans Tuesday to sharply limit visas for skilled workers from overseas, a move officials said was a priority amid job losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Department of Homeland Security and Department of Labor officials said new rules for what's known as the H1-B program will restrict who can obtain a work visa and will impose additional salary requirements on companies seeking to hire foreign workers.

Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli said about one-third of the people who have applied for H1-B visas in recent years would be denied under the new rules, which also will include limits on the number of specialty occupations available under the program.

President Donald Trump in June issued an order temporarily suspending the H-1B program until the end of the year.

The new rules reflect a broader effort by his administration to curb both legal and illegal immigration, an issue important to Trump's base even if it's less prominent in his campaign this year than in 2016.

A new requirement that employers pay higher prevailing wages to foreign workers will take effect in the coming days, reflecting the need to help the job market recover from the coronavirus shutdown, said Deputy Secretary of Labor Patrick Pizzella.

"With millions of Americans looking for work, as the economy continues its recovery, immediate action is needed to guard against the risk lower-cost foreign labor can pose to the well-being of U.S. workers," Pizzella said.

The H-1B program was created under President George H.W. Bush to help companies fill specialized jobs as the tech sector began to boom and it was harder to find qualified workers. Many companies insist they still need the program to fill critical positions.

Critics include labor advocates as well as people who seek limits on legal immigration. But supporters argue that H-1B holders fill critical needs and don't necessarily take jobs from Americans, but rather help expand the economy and create more opportunity.

Increasing the required wages will especially hurt startups and smaller enterprises that may be unable to meet the increased requirements, said Cornell University Law School professor Steve Yale-Loehr, an expert in immigration law. "Companies may decide to offshore jobs overseas, hurting U.S. workers," said Yale-Loehr.

Cuccinelli and Pizzella said the program has been abused to allow companies to displace American workers with less expensive employees from overseas.

"U.S. workers are being ousted from good paying, middle-class jobs and replaced with non-U.S. workers," Pizzella said. "It has also caused U.S. wages in some instances to stagnate. That is wrong."

Nation

Trump reports 'no symptoms,' returns to downplaying virus

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump, said to be making progress in his recovery from COVID-19, tweeted his eagerness to return to the campaign trail even as the outbreak that has killed more than 210,000 Americans reached ever more widely into the upper echelons of the U.S. government.

As Trump convalesced out of sight in the White House on Tuesday, the administration defended the protections it has put in place to protect the staff working there to treat and support him. Trump again publicly played down the virus on Twitter after his return from a three-day hospitalization, though even more aides tested positive, including one of his closest advisers, Stephen Miller.

In one significant national coronavirus action, Trump declared there would be no action before the election on economic-stimulus legislation — an announcement that came not long after the Federal Reserve chairman said such help was essential for recovery with the nation reeling from the human and economic cost of the pandemic. Stocks fell on the White House news.

As for Trump's own recovery, his doctor, Navy Cmdr. Sean Conley, said in a letter that the president had a "restful" Monday night at the White House and "reports no symptoms."

Meanwhile, Trump was grappling with next political steps exactly four weeks from Election Day. Anxious to project strength, Trump, who is still contagious with the virus, tweeted Tuesday that he was planning to attend next week's debate with Democrat Joe Biden in Miami and "It will be great!"

AP
A member of the cleaning staff sprays The James Brady Briefing Room of the White House, Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, in Washington.

Biden, for his part, said he and Trump "shouldn't have a debate" as long as the president remains COVID positive.

Biden told reporters in Pennsylvania that he was "looking forward to being able to debate him" but said "we're going to have to follow very strict guidelines."

Elsewhere in the government, the scope of the outbreak was still being uncovered. On Tuesday, the nation's top military leaders including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, and the vice chairman, Gen. John Hyten, were in quarantine after exposure to Adm. Charles W. Ray, the vice commandant of the Coast Guard.

It was not known how Ray contracted the virus, but he attended an event for military families at the White House on Sept. 27. The Coast Guard said in a statement that Ray felt mild symptoms over the weekend and was tested on Monday.

Also testing positive Tuesday was Miller, a top policy adviser and Trump speechwriter, who has been an architect of the president's restrictive immigration measures." Miller's wife, Katie Miller, who serves as communications director to Vice President Mike Pence, had the virus earlier this year. She had been in Salt Lake City with Pence where he is preparing to debate Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris, but she left as soon as she found out about her husband's diagnosis, officials said. She tested negative on Tuesday.

Trump on Monday made clear that he has little intention of abiding by best containment practices when he removed his mask before entering the White House after his discharge from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Waiting aides were visible when he entered the Blue Room without a face covering.

Trump's attitude alarmed infectious disease experts. And it suggested his own illness had not caused him to rethink his often-cavalier attitude toward the disease, which has also infected the first lady and more than a dozen White House aides and associates.

Barrett lived in house owned by co-founders of faith group

WASHINGTON (AP)—As a young law student, Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett lived in a house owned by co-founders of People of Praise, a religious community that teaches that men are divinely ordained as the "heads" of both family and faith.

Barrett has not publicly discussed her role with the secretive organization founded in South Bend, Indiana, which some former members have alleged subjugates women. Barrett also did not list the group as among her affiliations on Senate judicial questionnaires filed last month or in 2017, when she was confirmed to her current seat as a judge on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago.

The Associated Press reported last week that documents show both Barrett and her husband, lawyer Jesse M. Barrett, have been involved with People of Praise for decades and have immediate family members who have held high-ranking leadership positions in the group. Amy Barrett's father served for years as the head of the organization's New Orleans branch and on its all-male national board of governors. Her mother was a "handmaid," the term used until recently within the group to describe women entrusted to help guide other female members.

A database that compiles public records and financial information indicates Amy Barrett lived during the mid-1990s in a nine-bedroom house on St. Vincent Street in South Bend. The house is located two blocks from the University of Notre Dame campus, where Amy Barrett attended law school from 1994 through 1997.

The same home address was also listed for Jesse Barrett on a 1998 traffic ticket he received in Ohio, according to a database of criminal records. He attended Notre Dame as both an undergraduate and for law school, between 1992 and 1999.

Deed and tax records show the spacious colonial was owned until last year by Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan, a couple that helped found People of Praise four decades ago. The Ranaghans also co-wrote "Catholic Pentecostals," a 1969 book about the religious movement that helped spawn the South Bend group.

Amy Barrett's past residence in the Ranaghans' house was first reported by The Guardian. A number listed for the couple was not answered on Tuesday, but Dorothy Ranaghan was quoted by the newspaper as saying the Supreme Court nominee had lived with them.

"Let's just say it was one of the better experiences of our life," Ranaghan told The Guardian. "She is just a gem. But I don't feel comfortable talking right now."

Amy Barrett, 48, and Jesse Barrett, 46, did not respond to phone messages seeking comment on Tuesday. The couple live in South Bend with their seven children.

People of Praise spokesman Sean Connolly declined to comment, referring any questions back to the Barretts. He has previously refused to discuss whether the couple are members, though Amy Barrett is listed on tax records as serving on the board of private Christian schools affiliated with the group as recently as 2017.

The AP reported last week that numerous mentions of the Barretts, their children and other family members were scrubbed from People of Praise's website after her name first emerged three years ago on President Donald Trump's shortlist for a seat on the Supreme Court.

Experts call Trump's rosy virus message misguided

Should people fear the coronavirus?

Public health experts say 1 million worldwide deaths are among reasons to be concerned, if not fearful, and to take everyday precautions despite rosy advice from the still-recovering president.

"Don't let it dominate you. Don't be afraid of it. You're going to beat it," Donald Trump said in a White House video released after he left the hospital Monday.

In the United States alone, more than 210,000 people weren't able to beat it.

The seven-day rolling average for new U.S. cases has climbed over the past two weeks to almost 42,000 per day. The nation also sees more than 700 COVID-19 deaths each day.

COVID-19 also is deadlier than the flu, despite Trump's claim otherwise. Flu has killed 12,000 to 61,000 Americans annually since 2010, according to CDC estimates.

It is true that the vast majority of people who get COVID-19 develop only mild symptoms. But experts can't predict which patients will develop dangerous or deadly infections. And only a small percentage of Americans have been sickened by the coronavirus, meaning the vast majority are still at risk for infection.

It is true, as Trump said in the video, that medicines have been found that can treat the virus, reducing chances for severe illness and death. But there is still no cure for it and no definitive date for when an effective vaccine might become widely available.

Another reason for concern is uncertainty over which patients will develop lasting complications affecting the lungs, heart, kidneys and other organs. While these are more common in patients with severe infections, persistent symptoms lasting several months have occurred even in those with mild disease. Fatigue is among the most common.

Taking everyday precautions including wearing masks and social distancing to curb disease spread doesn't mean the virus is dominating people's lives, said Dr. Khalilah Gates, an assistant professor of medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago.

"There are things we need to do collectively to make sure we minimize the mortality," Gates said. "That's not domination. That's just being willing to make changes so we can all get through this in a much better and safer way." ***(AP)***

Asia

Sri Lanka confirms 321 cases in factory

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka said Tuesday more than 300 garment factory workers are infected with the coronavirus, days after reporting the Indian Ocean nation's first community infection in two months.

The health ministry said 321 cases have been identified in the factory cluster after the first patient was diagnosed at a hospital two days ago.

The outbreak in the suburbs of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, was identified despite claims by the the government that it has successfully controlled the virus's spread.

Trying to contain the outbreak, the government imposed a curfew in two suburbs where most of the patients live, closed schools and universities, and imposed restrictions on public transport.

For more than two months, Sri Lankan health officials have been saying that they have prevented community spread of the virus and that patients being reported belonged to two known clusters.

The country has reported 3,471 patients, including 13 deaths. Of the total, 3,259 have recovered.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Virus cases in Malaysia spiked to a new daily record of 691 on Tuesday, with four new deaths. Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin ruled out another national lockdown, saying that could crush the economy. Instead he said measures will be targeted to curb transmissions in hotspot zones. About a third of the new cases came from Sabah state on Borneo island. Muhyiddin said travel to and from Sabah will be banned from Oct. 12 for two weeks, while several hotspot areas in the state have been locked down. Muhyiddin said he and seven ministers and six deputy ministers are voluntarily observing a two-week quarantine. They were all at an Oct. 3 meeting with a minister who tested positive for the virus after returning from Sabah. Malaysia's police chief and the health director-general, who attended the meeting, have also isolated themselves at home.

■ India has registered 61,267 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, its lowest number of daily infections since Aug 25, raising the country's total reported cases to nearly 6.7 million. The Health Ministry on Tuesday also reported 884 deaths in the past 24 hours. The confirmed death toll now stands at 103,569. India, the world's second most affected country, has been reporting the highest single-day increases in the world for nearly 45 days. The last three weeks have seen a gradual decline in its reported infections.

■ Philippine Airlines has called on its employees to apply for voluntary separation as part of a retrenchment plan that may affect up to 35% of its 7,000 workers. PAL said it resorted to furloughs and flexible working arrangements at the height of the pandemic to preserve jobs. But it is operating only 15% of its normal flights and says collapsing demand and ongoing travel restrictions make retrenchment inevitable. The retrenchments would involve voluntary and mandatory steps to be carried out in the remaining months of the year, PAL said. It assured employees of fair treatment. PAL, one of Asia's oldest commercial airlines, is among the largest Philippine companies reeling from COVID-19. The disease has infected nearly 325,000 Filipinos, the highest number in Southeast Asia, and caused 5,840 deaths.

Scandal grows over corporal punishment in Thai schools

BANGKOK (AP)—A scandal over corporal punishment of schoolchildren in Thailand expanded Tuesday as six teachers and caregivers at a school accused of such abuse turned themselves in to face criminal charges.

There are now 13 employees of the Sarasas Witaed Ratchaphruek School who are facing charges after the parents of 30 students complained that their children, mostly around kindergarten age, had been physically abused, said police Lt. Gen. Ampol Buarubporn, the regional police commissioner overseeing the case.

Ronnarong Kawpech, a lawyer representing 30 families, said his clients filed charges of physical abuse, illegal detention and child abuse against the staff members of the school in Nonthaburi province, just outside Bangkok. They also filed separate complaints against both the school and the involved staff members seeking 5 million baht ($160,200) in compensation for each abused child.

Corporal punishment is not unusual in Thai schools. The Education Ministry recently issued orders barring teachers from using physical punishment against their students, but many reports, often including videos posted on social media, suggest the practice is still widespread.

The issue has been highlighted during a wave of political and social protests in Thailand. Secondary school students demanding educational reforms, who have organized themselves under the tongue-in-cheek name of "Bad Students," have staged several protests against schools and the Education Ministry. One of their demands is for the ministry to punish schools and teachers for using physical punishment of students.

The scandal over the Sarasas Witaed Ratchaphruek School broke out when a parent went to consult with a school staff member about a son who had developed some strange behavior and refused to go to school. The staff member displayed video from a closed-circuit TV camera installed in the classroom that showed a female caregiver physically abusing the child while other staff turned a blind eye.

When other parents subsequently viewed videos, they observed similar abuses, especially in kindergarten classes.

According to lawyer Ronnarong, one caregiver was seen employing physical violence more then 20 times in videos covering just eight days.

Many of the video clips have been posted on social media, drawing attention from mainstream media. One of the most shocking ones shows a student being thrown to the floor and then having a female caregiver cover his head with a black garbage bag as he tries to run away.

Another clip shows a caregiver repeatedly push a pupil against a wall while he is trying to leave the classroom.

World

Kyrgyztan election results are nullified

MOSCOW (AP)—Officials in Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday nullified the results of a weekend parliamentary election after mass protests erupted in the capital of Bishkek and other cities, with opposition supporters seizing government buildings overnight and demanding a new vote.

AP

Protesters push a burning trash can towards riot police during a rally against the results of a parliamentary vote in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.

Hundreds of people were injured, one fatally. Members of several opposition parties announced plans to oust the president and form a new government in the Central Asian country.

The decision to cancel the results of Sunday's vote was made to "prevent tension," Central Election Commission head Nurzhan Shaildabekova told the Interfax news agency.

Protests broke out in Bishkek and elsewhere after authorities announced early returns in favor of two parties, one of which is said be closely aligned with President Sooronbai Jeenbekov and another linked to a former top customs official, amid reports of vote-buying and other election fraud.

The country of 6.5 million, one of the poorest to emerge from the former Soviet Union, is strategically located on the border with China and once was home to a U.S. air base that was used for refueling and logistics for the war in Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan also hosts a Russian air base and maintains close ties with Moscow.

Supporters of a dozen opposition parties took to the streets Monday, demanding a new election. Police dispersed crowds with water cannons, tear gas and flash grenades. About 590 people were injured and one person was killed, the Interfax news agency reported, citing Kyrgyzstan's Health Ministry.

The violent crackdown failed to halt the unrest, however, and protesters broke into the government complex that houses both parliament and the president's office. A fire broke out in the parliament building but was quickly extinguished, and local media reported some offices were looted.

Other protesters went to Kyrgyzstan's State Committee of National Security, demanding to free former President Almazbek Atambayev, who was convicted on corruption charges earlier this year and sentenced to over 11 years in prison. Security officers freed Atambayev after negotiations with the protesters.

Tens of thousands attend Senegal pilgrimage despite COVID-19

TOUBA, Senegal (AP)—Tens of thousands of Muslims descended upon Senegal's holy city this week for the annual Grand Magal pilgrimage, a tradition in West Africa that some fear could become a super-spreader event for COVID-19.

The Magal honors the founder of the Mouride Brotherhood, Senegal's most influential religious order. In previous years, as many as 3 million people have traveled to the city of Touba during Magal, with many coming from neighboring Gambia.

With Senegal's land borders still closed, fewer pilgrims attended the main events Tuesday. Closely packed lines queued up to enter the Grand Mosque of Touba, though hand sanitizer and masks were required to enter.

Mam Thierno, 41, has lived in Italy for nearly a decade but chose to travel home to Senegal for Magal even amid the pandemic, calling it a deeply moving experience for him and his family.

"To go a year without Magal would be too much for me," he said. "With the pandemic there are people who say we shouldn't hold the Magal in Touba ... I know the disease is here, COVID-19 exists, but I still came."

Senegal was among the first African countries to report a confirmed COVID-19 case but has avoided the high death tolls seen elsewhere, in large part due to widespread required mask-wearing and restrictions on travel.

The country has had more than 15,000 confirmed cases and 312 confirmed deaths from the coronavirus.

Even with the precautions taken, some are fearful that Touba—once an early virus hotspot—could now see a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the weeks after Magal. Many people crowded into homes due to limited accommodations in town during the pilgrimage.

The virus also could potentially spread to communities far from Touba via people returning home on public transport. Buses only leave for their destination once completely full.

Sokhna Bousso Diop couldn't help notice many of the pilgrims were not following the face-covering rules outside the perimeters of the mosque. Still, she turned to her faith for assurance.

"We are confident that Serigne Touba has not forgotten us," she said, referring to the founder of the Mouride Brotherhood. "Let's keep on praying. Everything will go smoothly."

Environment

PEDRO J. TUDELA

A big passion for plants

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

» "Planting is the work of a lifetime..."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI Forestry's gets tree planting support from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who Tudela regards as the person who keeps pushing him to keep doing what he is doing to save our natural resources.

"Planting is the work of a lifetime…"

Seven months ago in March in front of an audience for the Susupe community garden project was this man, casually inspiring others as he talked about his experiences, the planting programs he has been involved with, to keep the island green and alive.

His name is Pedro J. Tudela, more popularly known as Big P.

Saipan Tribune recently had the privilege to get to know more about the man, and so now, we put a spotlight on him and his work, and hopefully, serve as an inspiration to others.

"Allow me to say that Pedro Tudela is an outgoing person, fun to be around with, and an open person."

This is how he described himself when we asked who "Pedro Tudela" is outside work. And we learned that while he likes planting, going to the beach, softball, and reading about the natural resources, what he loves most is spending time with his family.

Tudela is a forestry technician at the CNMI Forestry of the Division of Agriculture, under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He assists in the enforcement of forestry rules and regulations, and in the prevention of forest fire.

His work also entails conducting lectures at schools, also for private homeowners, as well as instructing farmers, government officials, and the general public about forestry, natural resources management, and conservation.

In fact, the very first time we took notice of Tudela, was at the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference back in November last year, while he was manning the CNMI Forestry's poster exhibit, where he patiently and carefully answered questions from the conference participants about native plant species.

"What do I do on a regular basis at work—maintain [the] nursery, update [the] nursery inventory, water all seedlings, out planting in the general public and farmers, reports, and [do] daily nursery work, soil testing, soil erosion, watershed, water run-off."

He also assists in tree planting, pruning, and other silvicultural work in collecting and caring for trees and tree seedlings in the nursery and out in the community, as well as conducts inventory of plants in and out of CNMI Forestry nursery.

Aside from this, he is also responsible for the site preparation of forestry projects, and conducts other forest management activities such as surveys, inventory assessment, and recreation development. Quite a tall task, and yet, Tudela makes it look easy, especially with his gusto for nature.

Developing the passion

Despite all the tree planting projects that he has been involved with, and the obviously significant role he plays in keeping the CNMI green, Tudela admits that what he always wanted to be is a police officer, but that life instead, opened a different path for him.

"I honestly could say that I never thought of working at CNMI Forestry. In my family, there are people working as a law enforcement officer, doctor, lawmaker, army, air force, among others. I always wanted to become a police officer but that didn't happened..."

"… so I sat down, one day, at the beach and asked myself, 'what do you wanna do in life?'"

Tudela then remembered that he worked at the CNMI Forestry, as part of an on-the-job training when he was in high school, and envisioned himself working there again. He waited until a job opening was posted, and then he applied. Needless to say, he got the job.

"Working at CNMI Forestry for three years in the books has changed my life, loving the natural resources we have. So who influenced me was my family and friends... to keep on pushing what I do."

While he plays no favorites, as far as the countless planting projects he has been involved with, Tudela tags three as the most unforgettable.

"I honestly could say that I have no best projects… because all the projects I have done in the past three years I [have been] working at CNMI Forestry are the best..." he begins. "… but the project I won't forget was working with Leisha Deleon Guerrero, the first ever Miss Northern Marianas Earth, because every time I will call that I have a tree planting, she will be down to join."

The other projects Tudela regarded as unforgettable are "Go Well with Joel" with Rep. Joel Camacho, adding that all the plants that the CNMI Forestry planted had remained in good condition, as well as partnering with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) for the Bring Back Our Trees campaign.

Reaching out for others to get involved

Tudela is humble and realistic enough to admit that he can't impose upon people to develop a passion for plants, but remains hopeful that the community will still get involved..

"Planting is a work of a lifetime," says Forestry Technician Pedro J. Tudela, who plays a role in the greening of the CNMI through his assistance in the enforcement of forestry rules and regulations, in tree planting activities all over the CNMI, and his work in conducting environmental education campaigns for plants species all over the island.

"I can't tell the community members to have a passion for forestry and plants, but all I could say is it takes yourself to love and have a passion for plants and forestry."

"Plants and trees help in so many ways, and flowers as well. I never thought that plants and trees and forestry plays a big role in the community. All I could say is take a break in a week and just read about forestry and plants, and trust me, you will learn a lot and know what it takes to be in my shoe."

He also is reaching out, with a sense of understanding, to those in the community who do not care about plants.

"My message to the people who don't care is very hard to say, because I was once like them who didn't care at all. But all I ask the community is when you see a newly-[planted] tree, or flower being newly planted, PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T KILL OR RUN OVER, OR UPROOT THE PLANTS."

Tudela appeals to everyone to not touch newly-planted trees or flowers, and stresses that CNMI Forestry plants them for a purpose. He also asks that when CNMI Forestry is hosting a tree planting activity, for the community to get involved, to bring the family out, and learn about tree planting or "the proper way of tree care."

If all of us care for plants, and for the environment in general, then collectively, the CNMI will be an even better place, not just for us now, but for the many generations to come. And so, may we all be reminded and moved by this quote from Tudela…

"Planting is the work of a lifetime: you never finish, I hope that while so many people are out smelling the flowers, someone is taking the time to plant some."

Let us all live in harmony with nature.

Pedro J. Tudela with Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2019 Leisha Deleon Guerrero (left) and Miss Water 2019 Jan Zowie Cruz (right) for the community garden project in Susupe. The community garden, a 600-square meter plot in Tramoha Avenue, is a first of such a project in the CNMI.

Tudela doing ground preparation work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Recreation prior to a tree planting activity.

Life & Style

Guitar rock legend Eddie Van Halen dies of cancer at 65

GREG ALLEN/INVISION/AP

Eddie Van Halen of Van Halen performs at the Nikon at Jones Beach Theater on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, in Wantagh, N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP)—Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock's biggest groups and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65.

A person close to Van Halen's family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday due to cancer. The person was not authorized to publicly release details in advance of an official announcement.

"He was the best father I could ask for," Van Halen's son Wolfgang wrote in a social media post. "Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift."

With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fueled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band's self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record "1984," which contains the classics "Jump," "Panama" and "Hot for Teacher."

Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007. Rolling Stone magazine put Eddie Van Halen at No. 8 in its list of the 100 greatest guitarists.

Eddie Van Halen was something of a musical contradiction. He was an autodidact who could play almost any instrument, but he couldn't read music. He was a classically trained pianist who also created some of the most distinctive guitar riffs in rock history. He was a Dutch immigrant who was considered one of the greatest American guitarists of his generation.

Honors came from the music world, from Lenny Kravitz to Kenny Chesney. "You changed our world. You were the Mozart of rock guitar. Travel safe, rockstar," Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx said on Twitter. Added Lenny Kravitz: "Heaven will be electric tonight."

The members of Van Halen—the two Van Halen brothers, Eddie and Alex; vocalist David Lee Roth; and bassist Michael Anthony—formed in 1974 in Pasadena, California. They were members of rival high school bands and then attended Pasadena City College together. They combined to form the band Mammoth, but then changed to Van Halen after discovering there was another band called Mammoth.

Their 1978 release "Van Halen" opened with a blistering "Runnin' With the Devil" and then Eddie Van Halen showed off his astonishing skills in the next song, "Eruption," a furious 1:42 minute guitar solo that swoops and soars like a deranged bird. The album also contained a cover of the Kinks' "You Really Got Me" and "Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love."

Van Halen released albums on a yearly timetable—"Van Halen II" (1979), "Women and Children First" (1980), "Fair Warning" (1981) and "Diver Down" (1982)—until the monumental "1984," which hit No. 2 on the Billboard 200 album charts (only behind Michael Jackson's "Thriller"). Rolling Stone ranked "1984" No. 81 on its list of the 100 Greatest Albums of the 1980s.

"Eddie put the smile back in rock guitar, at a time when it was all getting a bit brooding. He also scared the hell out of a million guitarists around the world, because he was so damn good. And original," Joe Satriani, a fellow virtuoso, told Billboard in 2015.

Van Halen also played guitar on one of the biggest singles of the 1980s: Jackson's "Beat It." His solo lasted all of 20 seconds and took only a half an hour to record. He did it as a favor to producer Quincy Jones, while the rest of his Van Halen bandmates were out of town.

Van Halen received no compensation or credit for the work, even though he rearranged the section he played on. "It was 20 minutes of my life. I didn't want anything for doing that," he told Billboard in 2015. "I literally thought to myself, 'Who is possibly going to know if I play on this kid's record?'" Rolling Stone ranked "Beat It" No. 344 on its list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. Jackson's melding of hard rock and R&B preceded the meeting of Run-DMC and Aerosmith by four years.

'Dune' ditches 2020, while AMC commits to staying open

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The 2020 theatrical release calendar is getting even slimmer in the wake of the announcement that Regal cinemas are temporarily closing, although AMC, North America's largest theater chain, says it will remain open.

Warner Bros. said late Monday that its sci-fi pic "Dune" will now open in October 2021, instead of this December. The studio also pushed back "The Batman" to March 2022 and moved up its "Matrix" sequel to Dec. 2021.

AMC Entertainment reiterated its commitment to stay open and cited a slew of upcoming new releases that it will be playing, including this weekend's new films "The War With Grandpa," with Robert De Niro, and "Yellow Rose." Roughly 80% of its U.S. locations are currently open.

With the recent exit of the next James Bond film, that leaves a mere handful of big films set to still open in 2020: Pixar's "Soul," on Nov. 20, Universal's "The Croods: A New Age," on Nov. 25, Disney's "Death on the Nile," on Dec. 18 and Warner Bros.' "Wonder Woman 1984," at Christmas. It's an extra hit to the ailing theatrical industry, which endured six months of closures and has had a difficult time restarting business during the pandemic with key markets like New York still closed and an ever-changing release calendar.

Man's internet addiction makes woman a social media widow

DEAR ABBY: I realize that social media is a big part of today's world, and I have no problem with someone using it to stay in contact with family and friends. But at what point is it deemed an addiction?

My significant other spends hours every day scrolling through his Facebook and Twitter pages. I have tried discussing it with him, but it becomes an argument. Now I just sit in the same room with him, silent and waiting until it's my turn for his attention. How can I get him to realize how isolated from him it makes me feel and that my presence doesn't seem to be needed? Should I just accept that he's an addict and move on?

OFFLINE IN FLORIDA

DEAR OFFLINE: Something becomes an addiction when it causes a disruption in one's life. Your significant other isn't the first person to have been seduced by the internet. He may argue with you because he doesn't realize the amount of time he spends glued to his screen.

Try this: Quietly clock the time he's on FB and Twitter for one week. Afterward, ask him if he realizes how much time he is spending there. He may be shocked when you read him the number of hours. That's the time to express how isolated and unneeded this has made you feel. He may be willing to install an app that signals when the time limit he has allotted himself is up.

Discuss making a "date" for the two of you to get out of the house as a couple on a regular basis—without devices—to take a walk, go to the park or have socially distanced coffee somewhere, which may interrupt his habit and enable you to enjoy some time together when you are both fully present. But if he isn't interested, you may have to decide if you want to continue being his lady-in-waiting.

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude or disrespectful for someone to change their first name? I'm in my early 30s and have wanted to change mine my whole life. I changed the spelling of my name when I was 12, and my parents legally changed it for me when I was a teenager. But I still don't like the name, and I cringe whenever I hear it.

Because it's a common name for someone my age, I'm sure most people won't understand if I change it. While I respect the effort my parents put into selecting a name for me, I don't want to be stuck with this one for the rest of my life. I don't want to cause hurt feelings. However, I'm ultimately the one who has to live with it.

Should I do what feels right for me, or must I accept the negative feelings and the disconnect I have toward the name to spare my family's feelings?

DISCONNECTED OUT WEST

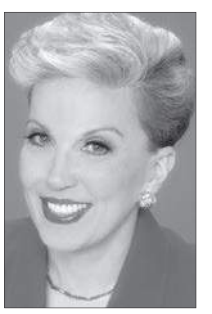
DEAR DISCONNECTED: Many people change their name(s) for various reasons. If you feel the need to do it in order to be a more authentic version of yourself, go for it. Assuming you have told your parents how you feel about your first name, I doubt they'll be any more upset about it than they were when they helped you change its spelling as a teenager.

A word of caution, however. The process may take more time than you would like because the pandemic has slowed the court system considerably. Also, once you change your name, you will need to change it on all official identifying documents, such as your driver's license, insurance documents, passport, etc., which can be time-consuming.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

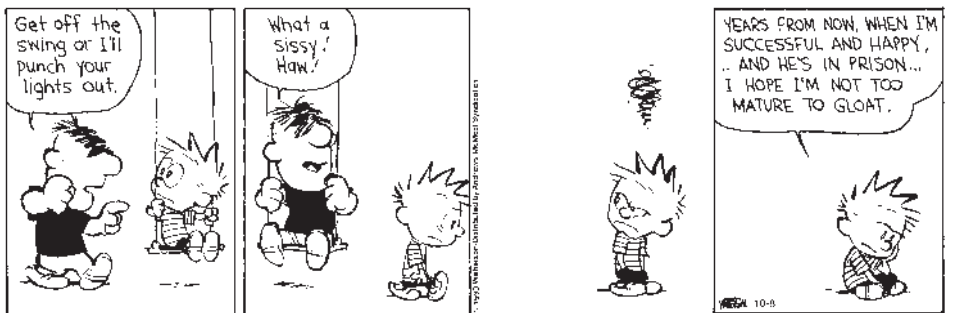


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

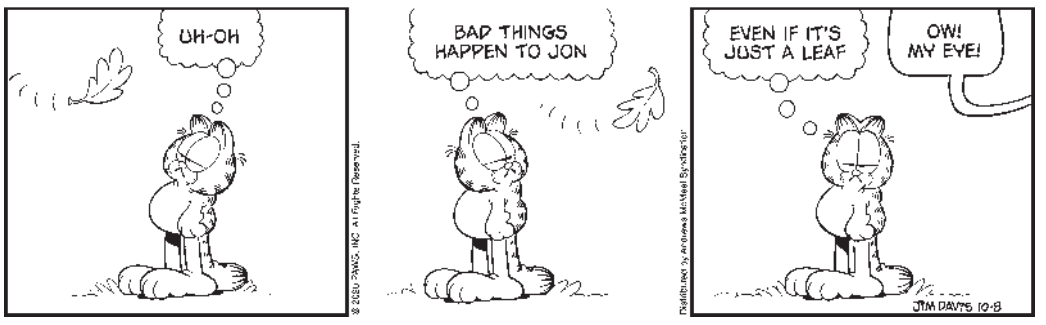
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


Get off the swing or I'll punch your lights out.
What a sissy. Haw!
YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN I'M SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY, .. AND HE'S IN PRISON... I HOPE I'M NOT TOO MATURE TO GLOAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



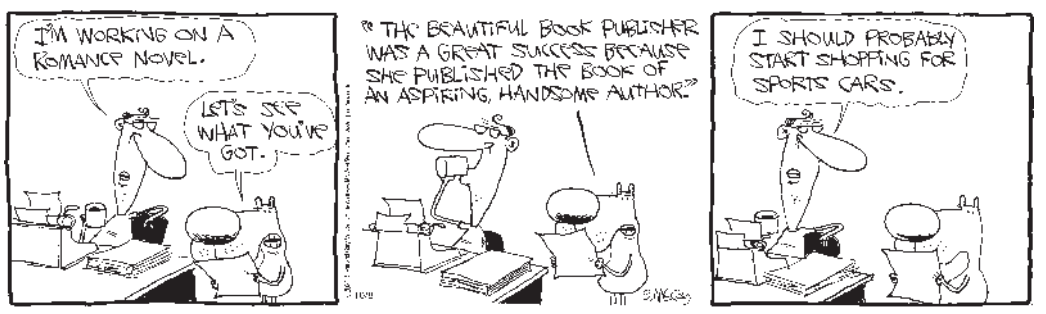
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SHOULD WE WALK TO GET ICE CREAM BEFORE I START PAINTING THE BATHROOM?
DAD? WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE ACTING ODD.
IS IT ODD FOR ME TO WANT TO GET SOME EXERCISE AND KNOCK OUT SOME PROJECTS?
YES!! VERY MUCH SO!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M WORKING ON A ROMANCE NOVEL.
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
"THE BEAUTIFUL BOOK PUBLISHER WAS A GREAT SUCCESS BECAUSE SHE PUBLISHED THE BOOK OF AN ASPIRING, HANDSOME AUTHOR."
I SHOULD PROBABLY START SHOPPING FOR SPORTS CARS.

CROSSWORD

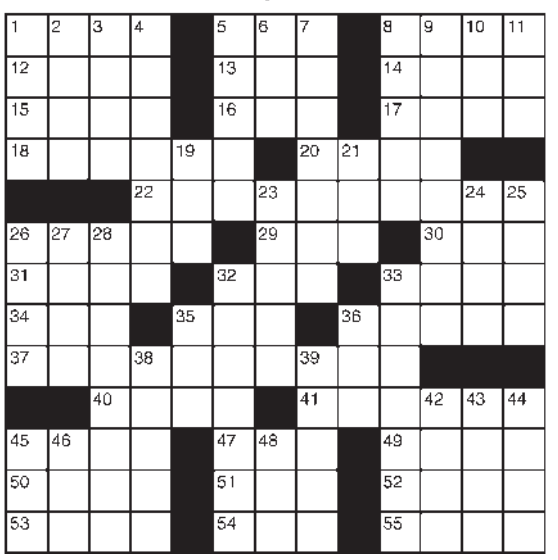
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Statutes
5 Lemon
8 Unruly kid
12 Bagh-dad's land
13 "A Chorus Line" song
14 Aviation prefix
15 Bistro handout
16 Pester
17 High-five sound
18 1998 Winter Olympics site
20 Ascend
22 Interro-gated, but good
26 Hierarchy levels
29 "The Matrix" character
30 In the style of
31 Gabor and Longoria
32 Uno + uno
33 Make a sweater
34 Badly lit
35 Put on TV
36 Pocket breads
37 Exhausted
40 Level
41 Salad veggie
45 Frog's kin
47 "The Greatest"
49 Morales of "Jericho"
50 Rim
51 Actor Gibson
52 Rules (Abbr.)
53 Dick Tracy's love
54 ISP giant
55 Salty septet

DOWN
1 Describe
2 Location
3 Dress designer Vera
4 Complains loudly
5 Blood giver
6 Actress Merkel
7 College awards
8 Low-voiced opera singer
9 Germane
10 Altar constella-tion
11 Spinning toy
19 Refusals
21 Altar affir-mative
23 Soup mix brand
24 Director Kazan
25 "Phooey!"
26 Decorate anew
27 Tel —
28 Conven-tion IDs
32 Museum display
33 Leg-pullers
35 Shock partner
36 Green shade
38 Carnival attrac-tions
39 Whale food
42 "Got it"
43 Long tale
44 Greet the villain
45 Asian holiday
46 Praise in verse
48 Zodiac feline

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ksenia Solo, 33; Bruno Mars, 35; Sigourney Weaver, 71; Chevy Chase, 77.

Happy Birthday: Follow your heart, and pursue your goals. Study, and prepare for the changes you want to make. Align yourself with people who share your concerns, interests and goals. Keep the peace, and distance yourself from people you find too demanding. Discipline, structure and common sense will lead to victory. Say no to excessive behavior and no-win situations. Your numbers are 6, 13, 24, 29, 32, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Control your emotions and temper. Concentrate on taking care of your responsibilities and living up to your expectations. Work alone, if possible, to avoid interference, and don't share your thoughts or secrets with colleagues. You are overdue for a change. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A unique idea will help you seal a deal or interest someone you find exceptional. A personal change you want to make can be accomplished. A work-related matter will encourage a lifestyle change. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take better care of your home and health. Doing the research will be vital if you want to avoid making a mistake. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your kindness or skills. Question motives and expectations. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Let your intuition guide you. A positive change will lead to an exciting opportunity. A partnership will turn out to be a blessing in disguise once you iron out your differences. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get involved in something that concerns you. Choose to participate and make a difference instead of watching from the sidelines. A chance to do something that will benefit others will make you feel good about the contribution you make. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Concentrate on your priorities and bring about the changes necessary to achieve what you set out to do. A change in the way you think will lead to an improved you and a positive lifestyle. Romance will enhance your relationship with someone special. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Use your energy wisely. Do your best to keep the peace. Consider where you will make the most progress, and funnel your time and expertise into something that will bring concrete results. Exercise discipline and common sense. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stop being so hard on yourself. Look at what you have accomplished. It's time to do something that brings you peace, happiness and satisfaction. You are overdue for a change. Start doing whatever it takes to reach the destination you desire. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Energy and enthusiasm will help you excel. Don't waste time on nonsense or trivial matters that aren't going to benefit you -- trust in what you know, not hearsay. Someone will lead you astray if given the chance. Don't neglect someone you love. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You may want to rethink how you handle your personal and professional affairs. Staying balanced will be necessary if you wish to bring about a change at home or work. Keep busy, and you'll avoid a situation with someone who overreacts. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be a leader, not a follower. Put time and effort into personal and relationship adjustments that will make your life more enjoyable. Don't say anything you don't mean or make promises you aren't going to honor. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Spend more time nurturing meaningful relationships and making adjustments at home to bring you closer to the ones you love. Look for unique ways to help a cause or those in need. A financial opportunity is heading your way. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, smart and sophisticated. You are passionate and endearing.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8				1		
9		5	6					
			4		1		5	6
		6				5	2	
	3	1				8		
4	8		1		7			
					5	3		4
	7					2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	7	4	5	3	8	6	2
8	2	4	1	9	6	7	3	5
5	3	6	7	2	8	9	4	1
6	8	3	2	1	7	5	9	4
9	4	1	8	6	5	3	2	7
7	5	2	3	4	9	6	1	8
2	6	9	5	8	4	1	7	3
4	7	5	6	3	1	2	8	9
3	1	8	9	7	2	4	5	6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

I LOVE ICE CREAM **Solution: 11 letters**

M	S	R	E	T	T	U	B	E	R	R	I	E	S	B
A	E	E	N	A	T	I	L	O	P	A	E	N	A	O
E	I	T	M	D	D	N	O	M	L	A	Ⓢ	Ⓞ	Ⓕ	Ⓣ
R	K	A	Y	I	R	N	O	T	A	G	O	F	F	A
C	O	W	K	R	F	A	U	T	R	U	G	O	Y	L
O	O	N	C	G	R	R	H	S	U	G	A	R	I	E
N	C	A	U	R	R	E	E	C	T	N	I	M	K	G
E	N	C	R	S	E	E	B	D	A	A	E	A	T	G
N	I	E	T	O	R	P	E	W	D	E	C	E	R	R
E	M	P	A	N	A	A	E	N	A	O	B	A	S	O
Z	A	I	E	E	L	P	J	O	T	R	P	L	G	V
O	O	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	E	E	T	N	I	A
R	F	P	I	K	P	Y	E	H	W	R	A	S	T	L
F	A	H	N	O	O	P	S	P	U	M	O	N	I	F
M	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	E	F	F	O	C

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Affogato, Almond, Apple Pie, Beach, Berries, Butter, Cake, Chill, Chocolate, Coffee, Cone, Cookies, Cream, Crêpe, Dairy, Flavor, Foam, Frozen, Gelato, Grape, Green Tea, Hard, Jars, Lime, Mango, Maple, Milk, Mint, Neapolitan, Oreo, Pecan, Protein, Semifreddo, Sherbet, Soft, Spoon, Spumoni, Strawberry, Sugar, Sundae, Truck, Vanilla, Water, Whey, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Cornflower

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lakers on cusp of first title in 10 years

FLORIDA (AP)—Anthony Davis punched his chest in celebration. LeBron James let out a huge scream.

The Los Angeles Lakers are on the cusp of what they want most—the franchise's first championship in 10 years.

Davis' 3-pointer with 39.5 seconds left was the backbreaker, James finished with 28 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, and the Lakers beat the Miami Heat 102-96 in Game 4 of the NBA Finals on Tuesday night.

The Lakers lead 3-1 and can win the title when the series resumes Friday.

This is the 36th time that a team has held a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals. Of the previous 35, the team with the lead has gone on to win the title 34 times—James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016 becoming the exception when they won three straight games to defeat Golden State.

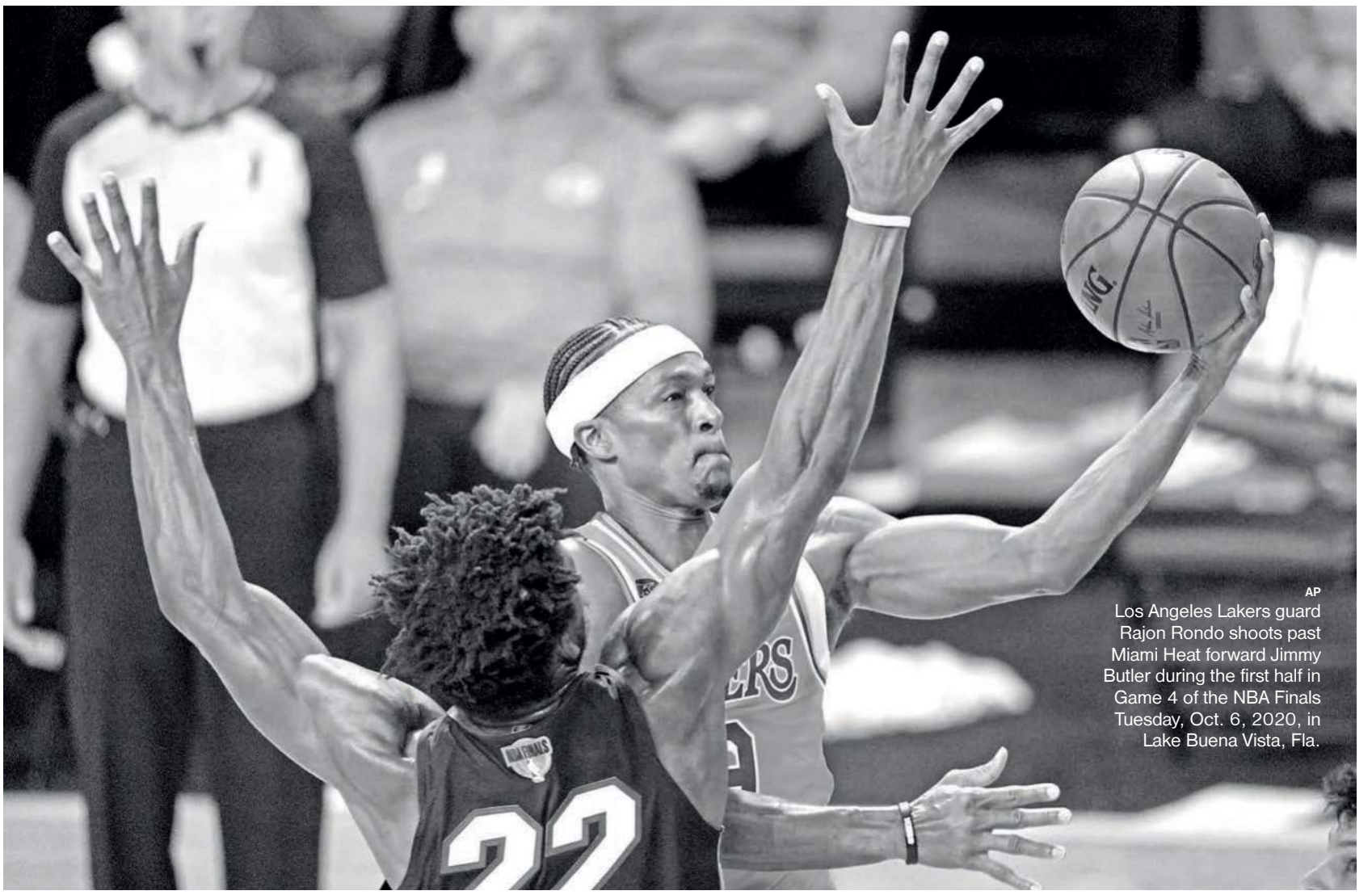
In the 3-1 Finals situation, the series has ended in five games 51.4% of the time (18 instances), in six games 40% of the time (14 instances) and in seven games 8.6% of the time (three instances).

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 15 and Danny Green added 10 for the Lakers, who didn't trail at any point in the final 20-plus minutes. Davis' 3-pointer in the final minute made it 100-91, starting the celebration that took the Lakers all night to earn.

"Felt like a finals game," James said. "Felt like both teams were desperate ... and that's what it's all about."

Jimmy Butler scored 22 points for Miami, which got 21 from Tyler Herro, 17 from Duncan Robinson and 15 from Bam Adebayo—who returned after missing two games with a neck injury.

James' 3-pointer with 8:18 left in the third put the Lakers up 55-54 and set the tone for the way the rest of the night was going to go; L.A. leading, Miami chasing.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers guard Rajon Rondo shoots past Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler during the first half in Game 4 of the NBA Finals Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

The Lakers were up by seven with 2:27 left in the third after a 3-pointer by Davis -- the 71-64 margin representing the biggest by either side to that point. Miami scored the next six to get within one, yet couldn't get back on top, a trend that persisted into the fourth.

Herro made a 3 early in the fourth to get Miami within one again; the Heat promptly fouled Markieff Morris on a 3-point try, and he made all three shots. Butler scored inside to tie the game with 6:27 left; James scored the next five points himself, including a three-point play where he ended up flat on his back after spinning the ball perfectly off the glass for a score on a drive while taking contact.

A bounce here, a bounce there. Those were the differences late, and the Lakers made their own breaks.

Butler had a corner 3 that would have given Miami the lead rim out with 3:05 left; Caldwell-Pope made a corner 3 at the other end seven seconds later and the Lakers were up 93-88. Miami then turned the ball over on a shot-clock violation; Caldwell-Pope scored on a drive for a seven-point lead.

"The job is not done," James said.

Not yet. But they're on the brink.

Meanwhile, Dwight Howard nearly collided with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver while leading the Lakers out of the locker room for pregame warmups. The Lakers were 14 for 39 on 3-pointers, making them 59 for 166 in the series. Before this year, the Lakers' record for 3s in a finals were 43 made and 125 attempts—both of which were surpassed this year in the first three games.

Point guard Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia) went through an on-court workout before the game with hopes of being able to play for the first time since the first half of Game 1, but was ruled out again shortly afterward.Robinson's first 3-pointer Tuesday was his 50th of the playoffs, meaning he and Jae Crowder are the first duo in Heat history with 50 postseason 3s apiece. They're the fourth teammates in NBA history to pull off that feat.

The Lakers led 49-47 at halftime. It was just the third time in the last 26 NBA Finals games that neither team reached 50 points in the first 24 minutes. Tuesday's was the 1,140th game played this season and just the 35th occurrence of both teams scoring 49 or less by the break, which works out to 3.1% of the time.

In other news, Jrue Holiday of the New Orleans Pelicans was announced Tuesday as the winner of the Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year award.

NBA players choose the winner from a field of 12 finalists. Holiday received 53 of 267 first-place votes to win over Philadelphia's Tobias Harris (48 first-place votes), Milwaukee's Kyle Korver (26 first-place votes) and Miami's Udonis Haslem (20 first-place votes).

Holiday announced in July that he would donate about $5 million in salary—what he earned after the NBA season restarted—to start a social justice fund with his wife, Lauren, a former soccer player for the U.S. Women's National Team. The Jrue and Lauren Holiday Social Justice Impact Fund primarily targets "socioeconomics inequalities across communities in New Orleans, the Los Angeles area and Indianapolis." The money aids Black-owned businesses in those cities and others, as well as helps historically Black colleges and universities.

The other finalists, in order of finish: Portland's Damian Lillard, Dallas' J.J. Barea, San Antonio's Patty Mills, Boston's Gordon Hayward, the Los Angeles Lakers' Jared Dudley, Indiana's Myles Turner, Denver's Torrey Craig and Toronto's Serge Ibaka.

Ronaldo rape case in Las Vegas going to trial

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo's legal fight with a woman who accuses the international soccer star of raping her in his suite at a Las Vegas resort more than 10 years ago is heading toward a trial before a federal judge in Nevada.

No date was immediately set, but U.S. District Judge Jennifer Dorsey said she will hear arguments and decide herself whether Kathryn Mayorga was mentally fit to enter a 2010 hush-money agreement with Ronaldo's representatives that paid Mayorga $375,000.

Ronaldo's attorney, Peter Christiansen, declined Tuesday to comment.

Mayorga's lawyers, led by Leslie Mark Stovall, did not immediately respond to email and telephone messages about the judge's ruling, issued Sept. 30.

Dorsey wrote that a court should decide whether Mayorga "lacked the mental capacity" to sign a confidentiality arrangement with Ronaldo's representatives and "whether any agreement ... was ever formed between the parties."

It was not immediately clear whether Ronaldo or Mayorga will have to be in court in person when a trial is held.

The Associated Press generally doesn't name people who say they are victims of sexual assault. But after filing her lawsuit against Ronaldo in October 2018, Mayorga gave consent through her attorneys to be identified.

Dorsey gave both sides until the end of November to agree upon a plan for a bench trial.

Christiansen could appeal Dorsey's order to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He declined to say if he will do so.

The ruling represents a setback for Ronaldo's legal representatives, who have so far kept details of the 2010 settlement sealed. It moves back to a public court questions that U.S. Magistrate Judge Daniel Albregts said in February belonged behind closed doors.

U.S. district judges can overrule magistrate judges, who handle court filings and pretrial arguments.

Ronaldo, 35, lives in Portugal and is one of the richest athletes in the world. He plays in Italy for the Turin-based soccer club Juventus and captains his home country's national team.

Mayorga, 37, is a former teacher and model who lives in the Las Vegas area. She claims in her lawsuit that Ronaldo or his associates violated the confidentiality agreement by allowing reports about it to appear in European publications in 2017. She seeks to collect at least $200,000 more from Ronaldo.

Ronaldo's lawyers maintain that media reports were based on electronic data illegally hacked, stolen and sold by cyber criminals. They say they believe documents have been altered and complain that Mayorga's lawsuit damages Ronaldo's reputation.

Mayorga says she met Ronaldo at a nightclub in 2009 and went with him and other people to his hotel suite where her lawsuit alleges he assaulted her in a bedroom. She was 25 at the time. He was 24.

Ronaldo, through his lawyers, maintains the sex was consensual.

Stovall says Mayorga had learning disabilities as a child, was pressured by Ronaldo's representatives and lacked the legal capacity to sign a nondisclosure agreement.

The judge declined, at least for now, to name Mayorga's brother as her guardian for the case. Dorsey also said some disputes could be resolved out of court.

"The court must decide whether Mayorga lacked the mental capacity to assent to the settlement agreement," Dorsey wrote.

Rays back Glasnow with 4 HRs to tie ALDS

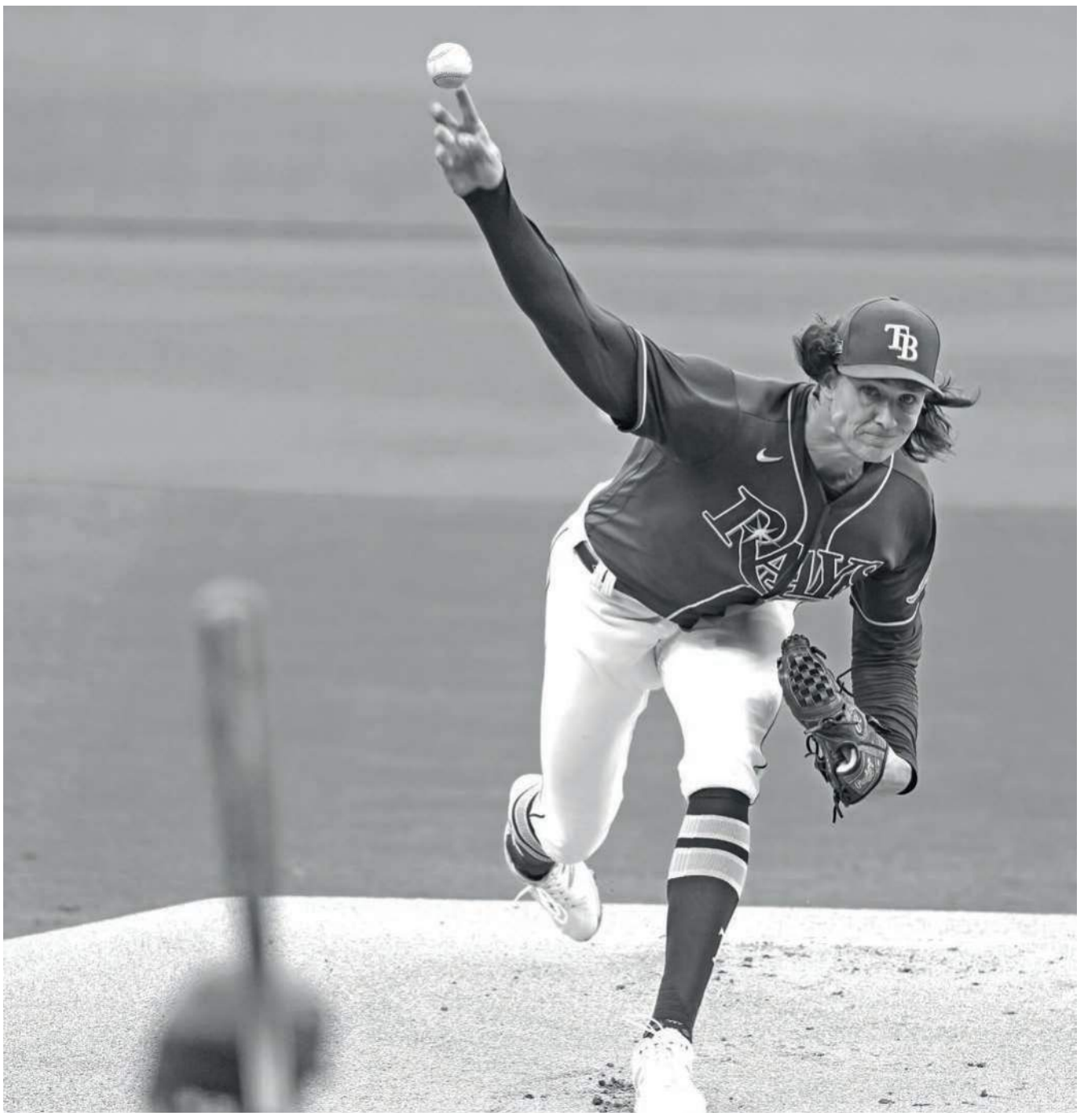
SAN DIEGO (AP)—With their pitching staff providing a record 18 strikeouts, the Tampa Bay Rays showed some pop of their own against the New York Yankees.

Randy Arozarena, Mike Zunino, Manuel Margot and Austin Meadows homered, and Tyler Glasnow struck out 10 to set a postseason record for the Rays, who beat the Yankees 7-5 Tuesday night to even their AL Division Series at one game apiece.

The Rays had enough power to overcome a huge game by Giancarlo Stanton, who had two home runs and four RBI. His impressive power display included a 458-foot, three-run homer that landed under the giant video board in left field at Petco Park. It was reminiscent of the mammoth shots he hit in winning the Home Run Derby here in 2016.

Stanton has three homers this series and five in four postseason games. His grand slam in the ninth inning Monday night was the Bronx Bombers' fourth homer in the 9-3 Game 1 win. The Yankees have 13 homers in five games.

Each team has hit six home runs in two games at the downtown ballpark, where the outfield once had the reputation as a place where fly balls went to die. The fences were moved in before the 2013 season.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Tyler Glasnow throws against the New York Yankees during the first inning in Game 2 of the American League Division Series Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020, in San Diego.

"We had each other's back," Meadows said. "If a guy's having a tough game, I feel like the next guy up really picks him up. For us, to continue to try to hit the ball hard, especially in big situations, our offense is pretty deadly when we can do that."

Manager Kevin Cash was relieved with his team's power display. Teams improved to 16-0 in the postseason when outhomering opponents.

"Randy, it's unbelievable what he's doing right now," Cash said. "Z came up with just a big homer for us. Meadows, it's good to see him get going; Manny just separated the game right there was good. Unfortunately we didn't get that shutdown inning we were looking for. We needed every bit of them."

Four Rays pitchers struck out 18, an MLB postseason record for a nine-inning game and a postseason record for Yankees batters.

Astros 5, Athletics 2

George Springer hit two home runs and Houston kept making more noise in the playoffs, beating Oakland to take a 2-0 lead in their AL Division Series.

Martin Maldonado also went deep for the Astros, who need one win to reach their fourth straight AL Championship Series. Game 3 is Wednesday, when Houston becomes the home team in the neutral-site matchup.

Springer put the Astros ahead to stay with a two-run drive in the third inning on a second straight 90-degree day at Dodger Stadium.

Maldonado's solo shot in the fifth chased loser Sean Manaea in his first appearance of this postseason. Yusmeiro Petit came in and promptly gave up Springer's second homer of the game, making it 5-2.

Springer's 17 postseason homers tied Nelson Cruz and Jim Thome for most through a player's first 54 postseason games. Five of them have come at Dodger Stadium, where the Astros won Game 7 of the 2017 World Series.

Winning pitcher Framber Valdez allowed two runs over seven innings in his first postseason start. He retired his final 10 batters.

Braves 9, Marlins 5

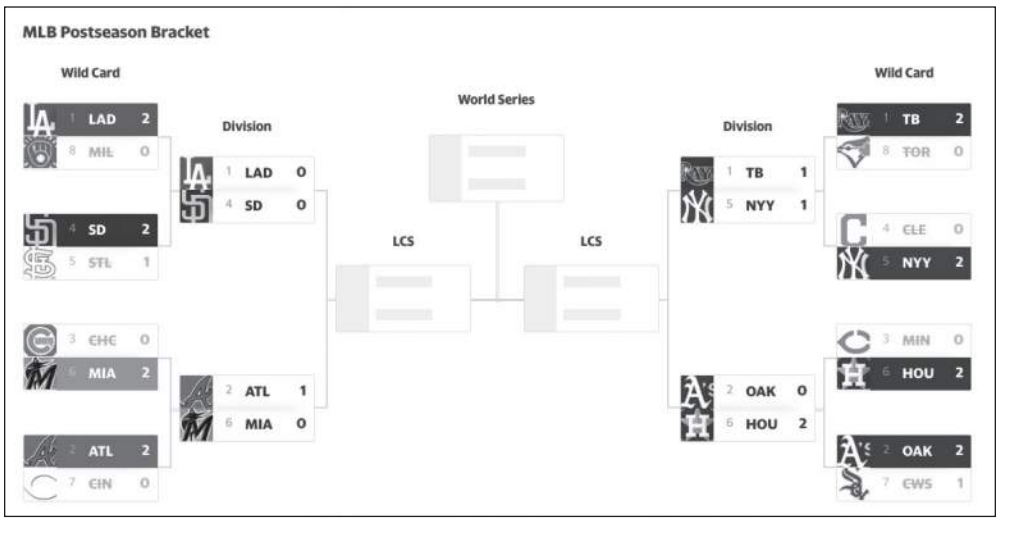
Ronald Acuna Jr. made history with his leadoff homer, Travis d'Arnaud hit a tiebreaking shot in Atlanta's huge seventh inning and the Braves beat Miami in Game 1 of the NL Division Series.

D'Arnaud also doubled and singled in driving in four runs, and Dansby Swanson homered during a six-run seventh to help power Atlanta.

After shutting out Cincinnati for 22 innings during a two-game sweep in the first round, the Braves relied on their bats in this opener.

Game 2 is Wednesday in Houston.

Acuna connected on Sandy Alcantara's second pitch to become the youngest player (22 years, 293 days old) in postseason history with a leadoff home run.



Patriots have much to fix with Newton's absence

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The Patriots anticipated having some offensive limitations without starting quarterback Cam Newton in the lineup against the defending champion Chiefs.

It turned out to be worse than expected.

A whirlwind week for New England that included Newton being sidelined after testing positive for COVID-19 and having its game pushed back a day, ended with several missteps on the field during a 26-10 loss to Kansas City on Monday.

The Patriots now trudge into a shorter week than expected facing lingering questions with Newton likely out again for Sunday's matchup against Denver. In addition to Newton's positive test, practice squad defensive tackle Bill Murray was placed on the COVID-19 reserve list Tuesday. But it's unknown if Murray, a 2020 undrafted free agent out of William & Mary, also tested positive or was simply in close contact with a symptomatic person.

Making his first start as a Patriot after twice serving as Tom Brady's backup, Brian Hoyer was pulled in favor of Jarrett Stidham late in the third quarter after two crucial mistakes that prevented New England from scoring. For the game, Hoyer was 15 of 24 for 130 yards with an interception and fumble.

Stidham initially flourished and had a touchdown pass to N'Keal Harry. But he had two turnovers—both interceptions—ending any hopes of a New England comeback. Still, as the week begins, Stidham looks to be firmly back in the competition to get the starting nod against the Broncos.

"I definitely think as a competitor you want to be suiting up and on the field every single game. I've just been controlling what I can control," Stidham said. "Going further down the road here I'm just gonna continue to get better ... and really focus on what I can do to help the team out in whatever fashion that may be.

"Things can happen in a weird way. Obviously, I want Cam to get better and have him back in the room as soon as possible."

How fast Newton will be available will depend on whether he's been exhibiting symptoms since his positive coronavirus test on Friday. But both scenarios will likely keep him out for at least one more game.

According to the NFL's protocols for players who test positive, those showing symptoms can't return until 10 days from when their symptoms first appeared and at least 72 hours have passed since their last symptoms occurred. That at a minimum would mean Newton couldn't rejoin the team until Oct. 13.

If he is asymptomatic, there's a chance he could return in as few as five days if he has two consecutive negative tests 24 hours apart.

In that instance Newton could be back with the team as early as Thursday. But that would leave only three days before the Patriots hosted the Broncos.

Nadal reaches semis; Thiem eliminated

PARIS—After all these years, Rafael Nadal experienced a first at the French Open in his 100th match at Roland Garros: finishing after midnight. The latest finish ever at Roland Garros, in fact.

Nadal moved two match wins shy of tying Roger Federer for the male Grand Slam singles titles record, sweeping 19-year-old Italian Jannik Sinner, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-1, in the quarterfinals.

The match ended at 1:26 a.m. local time, but Nadal, now 98-2 at the French, gets an extra day of rest. His semifinal against 12th-seeded Argentine Diego Schwartzman is on Friday.

The French Open never had match play after 10 p.m. until this year. Now that there's a roof installed on Court Philippe Chatrier and lights around the grounds, play can continue past sunset.

It's come in handy with frequent rain and shorter days at this year's tournament, postponed from its usual May-June slot due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Nadal was more concerned with the temperatures, playing Tuesday in the 50s with wind causing chattering from the flapping flags above the stadium.

"Of course, is not ideal finish, a match at 1:30 in the morning," he said. "But the problem is the weather. Is too cold to play.

"I know [soccer] players plays under these conditions, but is little bit different. They are all the time moving. We stop. We come back. We stop on the changeovers. It is a sport that you are stopped in a lot of moments, no? I think is little bit dangerous for the body play with these very heavy conditions."

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a shot against Italy's Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020.

Sinner, a promising talent playing his first French Open, gave Nadal all he could handle early on. He broke the 12-time Roland Garros champion to serve for the first set, but couldn't consolidate and then lost the tiebreak.

After Sinner had a trainer work on his thigh, he broke Nadal again in the Spaniard's second service game of the second set. But Nadal won nine of the last 10 games, sweeping his fifth straight opponent.

"I had actually quite a great plan," said Sinner, who grew up near the Austrian border as a skier with a Bode Miller poster on his wall. "It worked quite well."

Sinner was the first player to reach the French Open quarterfinals in his Roland Garros debut since a 19-year-old Nadal in 2005, the year of his first title.

If Nadal is to tie Federer's record 20 Grand Slam titles on Sunday, he must get past Schwartzman, who beat Nadal in a clay-court event on Sept. 19.

"He's coming with big confidence, no?" Nadal said.

Schwartzman dumped third-seeded Austrian Dominic Thiem, the 2018 and 2019 French Open runner-up, 7-6 (1), 5-7, 6-7 (8), 7-6 (5), 6-2 earlier Tuesday to make his first Slam semifinal.

"I know this week that I can beat him," Schwartzman said after joking about a lack of confidence due to his 1-9 head-to-head record against Nadal. "Rafa is the legend here, is the owner of this place almost."

Novak Djokovic looms as a possible finalist on the other half of the draw.

Meanwhile, Polish teenager Iga Swiatek makes it to her first Grand Slam semifinal thanks to a surprise win against qualifier Martina Trevisan of Italy.

The 54th-ranked Swiatek got off to a slow start before taking 11 of the last 12 games to win 6-3, 6-1 at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Both women were appearing in their first major quarterfinal.

Swiatek has been dominant throughout the tournament, dropping zero sets and a total of 20 games over five matches. That includes wins against No. 1 seed Simona Halep, the 2018 champion in Paris, and 2019 runner-up Marketa Vondrousova.

After defeating the 159th-ranked Trevisan, now Swiatek plays another qualifier, 131st-ranked Nadia Podoroska of Argentina.

Probe on match-fixing

French prosecutors said on Tuesday they had begun an investigation into suspected match-fixing at the French Open, reportedly involving a women's doubles match.

"It's a first-round match featuring players that are not well-known," a source within France's National Gaming Authority (ANJ) told AFP on condition of anonymity, without specifying which match was targeted.

French sports daily L'Equipe and German newspaper Die Welt reported that the match in question was the first-round encounter on September 30 between Romanian pair Andreea Mitu and Patricia Maria Tig and opponents Yana Sizikova of Russia playing with US player Madison Brengle.

Suspicion surrounds the fifth game of the second set which the Romanian duo won by love after Sizikova served two double faults.

L'Equipe reported that large sums of money were bet on the Romanians winning that game and that the wagers were placed in several countries

The Romanians went on to win the match, 7-6, 6-4.

Director general of French tennis Jean-François Vilotte would not confirm which match was under investigation but was upbeat about the ongoing procedures.

LABAUSA

From Page 20

"I was blessed to stay with a very kind Samoan family and one of the female coaches at the camp, Tauvale Fala," said Labausa, whose long journey back home finally ended last June 1, as she had to make a stop in Hawaii to visit her parents.

When she came back, restrictions in large gathering, including sports competition and related events, have been implemented, limiting the opportunities for her to train. However, once the restrictions were eased, Labausa resumed her rigorous workout, not putting into waste what she had accomplished in Samoa.

"I train five to six days a week and that includes four days of lifting and one to two days of explosive training with one of my newly acquired coaches, Liamwar Rangamar. I am hoping that with her experience and her help, we could get my lifting to where it needs to be by addressing my weaknesses that transfer over to Olympic weightlifting," the 25-year-old athlete said.

"I am looking at regaining my progress that I have made in Samoa with an approach that is slower, but there is a lesser risk of injury," Labausa said.

While training, Labausa also helps out the CNMI Weightlifting Federation and her fellow lifters in competing in a virtual contest—the 2020-2021 Oceania Weightlifting Federation League Email Tournament.

"During these monthly online competitions, we have had some old and new lifters participate and they are doing very well. There is also the Oceania Cup in November, which I will be lifting in," Labausa said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Antonette Labausa in her succesful 95kg clean and jerk attempt in the Australian Open held early this year.

While she is pleased to compete virtually, Labausa's ultimate goal is to represent the CNMI to the Mini Games in 2022.

"My goal as an athlete right now is to stay healthy, in shape, be injury free, and to be consistent with my lifting to work towards the Mini Pacific Games. I have a lot of work to do, and right now, I don't even know if there will be weightlifting in the Mini Pacific Games, but I'll be ready regardless," Labausa said.

In the initial list of sports proposed for the Mini Games, weightlifting was excluded. However, there have been discussion on adding events to the CNMI-hosted competition, including the weightlifting that has steadily delivered medals to the Commonwealth.

Lakers on cusp of first title in 10 years

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rays back Glasnow with 4 HRs to tie ALDS

PAGE 18

Labausa stays focused

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The cancelation of a top-level tournament and restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic will not discourage weightlifter Antonette Labausa from picking up where she left off.

Labausa was supposed to compete in the Oceania Championships in Nauru in August, but the event was scrapped due to the pandemic.

"Unfortunately, the Oceania Championships did not play out and I was extremely disappointed because of the blood, sweat, and literal tears put into all of the training leading up to what we were expecting to be the competition. However, I had to remind myself that there will be more competitions in the future and not to give up," said Labausa, who went through a four-month training camp in Samoa in preparation for the regional tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Antonette Labausa goes for the 100kg clean and jerk attempt in the Australian Open held early this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Antonette Labausa, right, poses with Samoan weightlifters after competing in the Australian Open.

While in Samoa, Labausa took note of the significant improvement she had and was thankful for all the assistance she received from her host family and fellow weightlifters.

"The highlight of the camp for me was honestly the training and the 14kg improvement total of my lifts, the snatch and clean & jerk. The athletes in Samoa are just so tenacious, and their energy was so contagious that it made me want to be better and give my all every training session that we had," the multiple Micronesian Games (2018 in Yap) gold medalist said.

Labausa started training in Samoa late December and completed the camp early April. She was supposed to fly out of Samoa for Nauru last April 15 for the Oceania Championships, but ended up staying in Apia for another week when the competition was canceled due to the pandemic.

See LABAUSA on Page 19

Lions Club bike race draws over 100

The number of bikers competing in the Saipan Unity Lions Club 4th Annual Bike Race has reached past the century mark with 109 have already registered for this Sunday's event.

The men's road bike (long course) category has drawn the most participants with 35 riders signing up as of yesterday event. In the MTB division, 20 bikers have turned in their registration form online, while three have entered in the women's division long course.

The weekend race will start and end at Banzai Cliff with a turnaround point at Mobil Gas Station in Tanapag. For the long course division, participants will go through the route four times.

In the short course (one lap only), 51 have already signed up with four entered in the MTB division and three in the road bike in the women's side. In the men's division, the MTB class has 18 participants, while the road bike category has more with 44.

Registration is ongoing and will continue until the day of the competition. Registration fee is $25 and each participant will receive the event T-shirt. The race will start at 6:30am.

The weekend tournament is a fundraising activity of Saipan Unity Lions Club with proceeds going to fund the group's Feed the Hungry campaign and other community projects in the CNMI. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this file photo, a female biker heads out of Banzai Cliff, which will be the start/finish point for this Sunday's Saipan Unity Lions Club 4th Annual Bike Race.